FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 110 *7 June 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

JANA Correspondent Interviews PFLP-GC's Jibril	A 1	1/A6
Palestinian Rejectionists Issue Call for Unity	A 2	1/A7
VOP Comments on Palestinian-GDR Relations	A 2	1/A7
PLO's Qaddumi Meets Visiting Belgian Delegation [VOP]	A 3	1/A8
'Arafat Exchanges Letters With Guinean President [VOP]	A 3	1/A8
Information Ministers To Meet in Cairo 15 August	A 4	1/A9
Palestinians Claim Responsibility for Explosions [VOP]	A 4	1/A9
2 June Report	A 4	1/A9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Australian Agriculture Official	C 1	1/A10
Agriculture Relations Reviewed	C 1	1/A10

KUWAIT

Sudan's Numayri Departs After Arab Solidarity Talks	C 1	1/A10
Government Suspends Newspaper AL-QABAS for 3 Days	C 1	1/A10

SAUDI ARABIA

Sudanese President Numayri Arrives in Riyadh	C 2	1/A11
Information Minister Replies to Algerian Press Accusations	C 2	1/A11

UAE

Defense Minister Receives PLO's Zuhayr Muhsin	C 4	1/A13

YEMEN--PDRY

Defense Minister Begins Visit to Bulgaria	C 4	1/A13
QNA: PDRY Opposition Leaders Establish Front in Cairo	C 4	1/A13

EGYPT

As-Sadat Speaks at Meeting With 2d Field Army	D 1	1/A14
Further Report	D 1	1/A14
Passports of Critics Abroad May Be Withdrawn	D 6	1/B5
Last Edition of AL-AHALI To Be Confiscated	D 6	1/B5
Cairo Radio Comments on Dayan's Statements	D 7	1/B6
AL-AKHBAR Attacks Iraq, Radio Moscow, BBC [30 May]	D 7	1/B6
Higher Political, Economic Committee Meets	D 8	1/B7
War Minister al-Jamasi Arrives in U.S. for Talks	D 8	1/B7
AL-AKHBAR Prints Letter Criticizing Al-Qadhdhafi	D 9	1/B8

IRAQ

Kuwaiti Paper: Pro-Soviet Coup Discovered in Iraq E 1 1/B9
Minister Denies Reports of Unrest in Kurdish Region E 2 1/B10
Saddam Husayn Speaks on Role of Religion in Iraq E 2 1/B10
Iraq Will Not Attend Cairo Arab Information Meeting E 4 1/B12

JORDAN

Information Minister Returns From Moscow, Makes Statement F 1 1/B13
Sudanese President Numayri Arrives in Amman F 1 1/B13
Visits Army Command F 2 1/B14
Husayn, Numayri Hold Talks F 2 1/B14
Concludes Visit F 2 1/B14
AD-DUSTUR Comments on Numayri's Current Mission F 3 1/C1
AD-DUSTUR Comments on U.S. Stand in NATO Meeting [2 Jun] F 3 1/C1

LEBANON

Foreign Ministry Receives Report on Israeli Withdrawal Plans G 1 1/C3
New Israeli Conditions Reported G 1 1/C3
AL-AHRAR: Unregistered Palestinians To Be Deported G 1 1/C3
Zgharta Region Phalangist Official Murdered [Voice of Lebanon] G 2 1/C4
Kuwait AL-ANBA': Lebanon Buys 200 British Tanks G 2 1/C4
Beirut: Shipment of Military Vehicles Arrives G 2 1/C4
Sarkis Receives Algerian Envoy, PDRY Foreign Minister G 3 1/C5
Briefs: New Romanian Ambassador Arrives; Ghanaian Envoy Presents Credentials G 3 1/C5

SYRIA

Foreign Minister Interviewed by FRG Paper DIE WELT H 1 1/C6
INA Reports Clandestine Syrian Ba'th Party Statement H 2 1/C7
AL-BA'TH Comments on NATO Intervention in Africa H 2 1/C7

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi Leaves for Home 6 June I 1 1/C8
FLN Delegation Visits USSR [EL MOUDJAHID 1 Jun] I 1 1/C8

LIBYA

JANA Reports Libyan-Algerian Joint Communique I 1 1/C8
PFLP-GC Leader Makes Statement on Arrival I 3 1/C10
Bulgarian Deputy Chairman Holds Talks With Jabir I 4 1/C11
Meets With Municipalities Secretary I 4 1/C11
Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit I 4 1/C11

TUNISIA

L'ACTION Editorial Comments on Western Activity in Africa [28 May] I 5 1/C12

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO Official Scores French, Spanish Roles in Sahara [Algiers EL MOUDJAHID 28 May] I 5 1/C12
POLISARIO Claims 72 Moroccans Killed in 2 June Battle I 7 1/C14

ISRAEL

Peres Talks to POST on Peace Issue, Party Challenges [7 Jun]	N 1	1/D1
Jerusalem Reacts to As-Sadat's Ismailia Speech	N 3	1/D3
Knesset Committee Discusses U.S. Questions	N 4	1/D4
Governor: No Change in Policy in Judaea, Samaria	N 4	1/D4
West Bank Mayors To Cooperate With Israel	N 5	1/D5
No Money for Equalization of Conditions in Territories	N 5	1/D5
Technical Colleges Approved for West Bank	N 5	1/D5
Gush Emunim To Wage Campaign Against Likud Government	N 5	1/D5
W. Bank Paper Condemns Confiscation of Arab Lands [AL-QUDS 26 May]	N 5	1/D5
Sabotage Increasing in Areas Populated by Jews [HA'AREZ 4 Jun]	N 6	1/D6
Nabulus Police Discover Large Arms Cache [MA'ARIV 5 Jun]	N 6	1/D6
Authorities Warn Internal Terror May Increase [POST 7 Jun]	N 7	1/D7
HA'AREZ: If Dayan Resigns DMC Will Follow [6 Jun]	N 7	1/D7

IRAN

AFP Reports on 6 June General Strike in Iran	R 1	1/D8
SAVAK Chief Appointed Ambassador to Pakistan	R 1	1/D8
New SAVAK Chief, Gen Moqaddam, Introduced to Shah	R 1	1/D8

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan Official Foresees Close Relations With Iraq	S 1	1/D9
Finance Minister Addresses Ministry Staff	S 1	1/D9
Possible Opposition 'Not Being Excluded' by Kabul	S 2	1/D10

BANGLADESH

Foreign Secretary Hussain Leaves for Rangoon 6 June	S 3	1/D11
Zia Promises Parliamentary Elections in December	S 3	1/D11

INDIA

Desai, Reddy Congratulate Bangladesh's Zia on Election	S 4	1/D12
Desai Concerned Over Superpower Presence in Indian Ocean	S 4	1/D12
Indian Paper Criticizes Superpower Disarmament Stand	S 5	1/D13

PAKISTAN

Pakistan, PRC Teams Review Border Trade Exchange	S 5	1/D13
Supreme Court Orders Review of Bhutto Jail Conditions	S 6	1/D14

SRI LANKA

Finance Minister Briefs Parliament on Foreign Aid	S 6	1/D14

BRIEFS

Sri Lanka Antimalaria Agreement; British Aid to Sri Lanka; Pakistan-Turkey Grain Agreement	S 7	1/E1

Item 856-B-6 AFEX 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-110

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MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

58

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JANA CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS PFLP-GC'S JIBRIL

LD062130Y Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, June 6, JANA--In an interview with the JANA correspondent here, Mr. Ahmad Jibril, the secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) General Command praised the Jamahiriyah for its stand with the Palestinian resistance and its total support for the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people who were struggling for the liberation of their lands and repatriation in their usurped homeland.

He also praised the meetings held between Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and President Houari Boumediene as they fostered the steadfastness of the Arab nation in Africa and in the Arab east.

In this respect he said: "Everybody in the Palestinian resistance deeply appreciates such revolutionary stands being adopted by the Jamahiriyah at a time when some other Arab parties are just paying lip service to the Palestinian cause by talking about revolutionism and nationalism in their radio broadcasts and in the press.

Mr. Jibril praised the aid being extended by the Jamahiriyah to the Palestinians in complete silence at a time when others were just making a big noise about it without doing anything in reality. In this respect, he said "We shall, however, never be deceived by such cunning tactics."

He also expressed his deep appreciation to the Jamahiriyah for the aid it extended to the Palestinian people in the occupied lands through the municipal and people's institutions.

Regarding the Algerian summit conference held between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Houari Boumediene of Algeria, Mr. Jibril said: "We sincerely hope that the Jamahiriyah will play a key role in developing and fostering the confrontation and steadfastness front."

Mr. Jibril called upon the Arabs to proceed along the right path, namely, the struggle for repatriation through the achievement of real national unity.

Regarding the relations with the Lebanese authorities, Mr. Jibril said: "The Palestinian leaders share the Lebanese authorities' viewpoint that the Palestinian armed forces should be grouped together under the name of the Palestinian army or any other name. This army should be the armed vehicle to be used by the PLO."

He added: "This is intended to give credence to the agreements between the Lebanese authorities and the Palestinians so that the PLO army, like any other Arab army, may be legally established. In this way, the isolationist Lebanese front will have no right to allege that the Palestinian military presence is illegal."

Mr. Jibril went on to say: "We would like to point out that it was not the Palestinian resistance which triggered off the civil war in Lebanon. It has become imperative upon the Lebanese authority to raise its head from the sand."

Mr. Jibril outlined the demands of the Palestinian resistance as follows: to make use of Lebanon as an information base, to benefit from the Palestinians living in Lebanon, to have the right to undertake military action and to set the Palestinians in the occupied lands on a war footing."

He also added: "We do not want to compete with the legitimate Lebanese authorities nor to replace them, nor do we wish to live in Ad-Damur. Rather we want to return to Tall az-Za'tar, and we are willing to co-operate by all means with the legitimate Lebanese authorities."

Mr. Jibril added: "We will do our best to evacuate the Zionist enemy from south Lebanon. Together with all the Lebanese citizens we will wage war against the Zionist enemy unless it withdraws by the end of June."

On the fate of the Zionist prisoner who was imprisoned by the front in south Lebanon two months ago, Mr. Jibril said: "We are fully determined to try him. In fact we mean to try the Zionist entity and the capitulationist policy of the Egyptian president."

He affirmed that the trial would be held soon and would be attended by a number of international parties.

In conclusion, Mr. Jibril said: "The Palestinian resistance need not be stabbed in the back anymore. We should vigilantly guard against all the conspiracies being hatched against us. Once more, I summon the Palestinian National Council to a meeting during which a unionist formula could be worked out on sound, clear-cut bases. In this respect we should be guided by the Tripoli declaration when establishing our political unity."

PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS ISSUE CALL FOR UNITY

JN061205Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 6 June--The Palestinian rejectionist front has called on the Palestinian forces and organizations to achieve unity in order to safeguard the Palestine revolution from Arab reactionary plans. It called on them to reject any agreement that does not insure freedom for the Palestinian resistance in fighting Israel.

In a statement issued yesterday on the 11th anniversary of the June war, the front said that unity can only be achieved through commitment to the aims of the Palestinian people outlined by the Palestinian national charter. This charter rejects Zionist existence on Palestinian territory and rejects compromises on any part of the Palestinian territory for a settlement. This charter holds that Palestine is part of the Arab territory.

The statement said that establishment of unity among the Palestinian forces and organizations requires a commitment that a long term popular war is the sound revolutionary means to liberate the land. Imperialism is the enemy of our people. Arab reaction is also an enemy of our people and of their liberation. The Zionists are our enemies and we will not negotiate with, recognize or seek reconciliation with them under any circumstances.

The statement accuses the UN emergency forces of interpreting Resolution 425 in a way that conflicts with the political agreements between the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese authority.

VOP COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN-GDR RELATIONS

JN061922Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The GDR is currently hosting the Palestinian folklore exhibition, which is held at one of the largest GDR museums. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar opened the exhibition. He is leading a Palestinian delegation on a visit to the GDR for talks with German officials.

The GDR's hosting of the Palestinian folklore exhibition within the week of solidarity with the Palestinian people undoubtedly constitutes a feature of GDR support and backing for the Palestinian people and the PLO. This support stems from the principled stands which the GDR adheres to as do the other socialist countries, foremost of which is the friendly Soviet Union.

The GDR has always stood against the aggressive wars launched by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. When the June 1967 war broke out, the GDR strongly denounced the Zionist aggressors and severed all its relations with the Zionist racist entity. It also offered aid directly to the Palestinian people. The GDR offered various diplomatic, moral, political and material aid. This aid was not conditional or temporary, but will continue in the future.

The GDR has also advocated in all international quarters our Palestinian people's right to determine their destiny. In the 29th UN session it supported the UN resolution which stressed the right of our Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish their independent state as well as giving the PLO the status of a permanent observer at the UN General Assembly. To further promote relations between the Palestinian revolution and the GDR, the GDR announced opening an office for the PLO in Berlin. The GDR--both government and party--has enabled the Palestinian popular organizations to attend the world conferences to explain the dimensions and aims of the just Palestinian struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Moreover, the GDR has given Palestinian students the opportunity to pursue their higher studies free of charge at German universities. This is in addition to other aspects of support offered by the GDR to the Palestinian people and their revolution.

This firm and principled policy, which expresses itself in GDR support and assistance for the Palestinian people and all the struggling peoples, is in fact in harmony with the (?pioneering) stand of the GDR--one of the socialist countries working with determination and steadfastness to establish true and genuine socialism whose most distinguished characteristics are the proletariat and stands of solidarity with the peoples struggling against imperialism.

Our Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, are able to distinguish the true friendship which links this people with the GDR. The other Arab peoples are not isolated from what the GDR and all the socialist countries offer them in aid and support for their march of struggle.

PLO'S QADDUMI MEETS VISITING BELGIAN DELEGATION

JN0318220Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 3 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, met this morning with a Belgian delegation that is currently visiting the Middle East. The radio correspondent has learned that during this meeting the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the situation in the region and ways to develop information support for the Palestinian question by those forces in Belgium who support Palestinian rights.

'ARAFAT EXCHANGES LETTERS WITH GUINEAN PRESIDENT

JN0317222Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 3 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar today received a letter from Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure on the latest developments in the African Continent. Brother Abu 'Ammar sent the Guinean president a reply in which he assessed Palestinian-Guinean relations and the current situation in the Arab region.

INFORMATION MINISTERS TO MEET IN CAIRO 15 AUGUST

JN041402Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 4 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 14 June--Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League Dr Salim al-Yafi has declared that it has been decided to hold the Arab information ministers conference on 15 August at the Arab League premises. He said it will be preceded by the meeting of the Arab Information Permanent Committee on 27 July to prepare for the conference.

Dr al-Yafi added that the Arab League Information Department is currently preparing a draft agenda for the conference and will send it to the Arab information ministers on 12 June.

Dr al-Yafi said the most important things which the conference will discuss are Arab information strategy in the next phase and assessment of Arab efforts to propagandize for the Arab cause abroad.

PALESTINIANS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPLOSIONS

JN061744Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Our Palestinian revolutionaries this morning set on fire and completely destroyed a bus belonging to the Zionist Dan Company. This was announced by the military spokesman of the General Command of the revolution forces in a communique issued today.

The communique says: At 0715 today, one of our fighting groups operating inside the occupied homeland attacked one of the buses belonging to the Zionist Dan Company on the Ramallah-Lod road near the village of Shuqba. After forcing the driver out of the bus, our revolutionaries hurled a number of incendiary bombs inside it. The explosions destroyed and completely burned out the bus. The group then successfully escaped according to plan.

Following the attack on the bus, enemy patrols arrived on the scene and began combing the area. They arrested several Palestinian citizens under the pretext of their being connected with the operation.

2 June Report

JN021355Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 2 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 June--The General Command of the Palestinian revolution forces claimed responsibility for the two explosions that occurred in occupied Jerusalem today. Initial reports say that the first explosion took place at 0730 today in Al-Manarah Park in Jerusalem and injured a number of enemies. The second explosion took place in the city at noon today.

The enemy radio admitted in its English newscast at noon today that 2 Zionist settlers were killed in the second explosion and 20 others were injured. In a later cast in Hebrew the radio reported that the death toll increased to 4 people.

BAHRAIN

AMIR RECEIVES AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL

JN050957Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0940 GMT 5 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 5 June--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, this morning received Ian Smith, Australian agriculture minister [for the state of Victoria], on the occasion of his visit to the State of Bahrain. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; and Habib Ahmad al-Qasim, minister of commerce and agriculture.

Agriculture Relations Reviewed

JN051408Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1320 GMT 5 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 5 June--Habib Muhammad al-Qasim, Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture, met here today with Ian Smith, Australian minister of agriculture [for the state of Victoria].

Following the meeting, the Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture stated that the two sides reviewed relations between Bahrain and Australia in the areas of commerce and agriculture. He added: There has been a large development of commercial and agricultural exchange between the two countries.

The Bahraini minister further said that the Australian minister had expressed his government's readiness to supply Bahrain with all its needs for agricultural equipment and technical expertise.

KUWAIT

SUDAN'S NUMAYRI DEPARTS AFTER ARAB SOLIDARITY TALKS

LD061150Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Summary] President Numayri of Sudan and the delegation accompanying him left Kuwait this morning after a visit to Kuwait. They were seen off by the amir, the crown prince and the prime minister. 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, told the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY that President Numayri's talks with the amir had dealt with the results of his contacts in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee, which were aimed at restoring Arab solidarity. 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said Kuwait, which is a member of the committee, supports the activity of the Arab Solidarity Committee, which will meet in Khartoum by mid-June to discuss the results of its work.

GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS NEWSPAPER AL-QABAS FOR 3 DAYS

JN060953Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 6 June--Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and information minister, issued a decision last night suspending the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS for 3 days as of today. The decision was taken because the paper violated the Kuwaiti publication law.

SAUDI ARABIA

SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ARRIVES IN RIYADH

LD070924Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 7 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 7 June, SNA--President Ja'far Numayri of Sudan arrived in Riyadh at 1115 today for a short visit to the kingdom within the framework of his current second tour of the region. King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was at the head of those who welcomed President Numayri at Riyadh airport.

INFORMATION MINISTER REPLIES TO ALGERIAN PRESS ACCUSATIONS

LD061514Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Soviet news agency and some Algerian press quarters have circulated reports about the Sahara question, accusing the kingdom of partiality toward one side in the conflict. The radio representative questioned His Excellency Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information, about this. Here is the text of his excellency's reply: [begin recording]

[Yamani] In fact, the reply to your question about what has been circulated by some Algerian press quarters, and unfortunately some senior officials, about the posture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding the Sahara question is very regrettable, because it is very surprising that these quarters have forgotten that it is the duty of journalists to track down facts and publish the truth about matters. Moreover, in my view, they have (?ignored) the smallest amount of conscience by allowing the circulation of such reports, which are completely false.

They are doing this (?at a difficult) time for our Arab nation--when it needs solidarity and cooperation--and we see these papers circulating reports which are in fact tendentious and which seek to stab the Arab nation in the back and to break its ranks. As regards what was reported in the Algerian papers, in particular on the kingdom's posture regarding the Sahara question and partiality toward one side at the expense of another, we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in fact greatly regret the publication of such statements, which in our view are irresponsible, and which come from a state which knows well the kingdom's honorable posture regarding the causes behind the struggle of our Arab nation since the dawn of the history of this kingdom, from the days of the late King 'Abd al-Aziz, the days of the late King Saud and King Faysal. King Khalid and his royal crown prince are continuing the struggle to bolster the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation. After all this, someone says in this cheap, rowdy manner that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not adopting an honorable posture toward the causes of the struggle. In fact, we would not even have replied had it not been for the fact that (?journalistic) loyalty demands that we should mention the facts.

One incident we would like to mention here is that when the Algerian revolution was about to collapse and be dealt a blow by colonialism, a representative of the Algerian revolution came to Jidda and told the kingdom about the difficult position of the Algerian revolution at that time. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stripped--I say stripped--some sections of its army and sent weapons on Saudi ships to Libya and then the weapons reached the revolutionaries. This led to a change in the situation and how great was our joy when we learned that the arrival of the weapons had led to a change in the situation and to the continuation of the noble struggle of the revolution. Here we are, after all this, and someone comes along and says that we want to avenge ourselves on Algeria. This vengeance, (?what those noble stands are being called), it is said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (?feels) toward Algeria. [as heard]

These people do not appreciate the kingdom's posture, and they ought to look at history and discover these noble and shining postures, which, thank God, need no publicity. However, in order to guard against such press rowdyism, we want to say that it no longer has a place in the Arab world and that it is our duty to return to a unity of ranks and speak with one voice and to reject such differences which do not serve the public interest in any way.

Regarding the reports about the kingdom's posture and its partiality toward one side at the expense of another in the Arab Maghreb, this is not true. Our postures toward development in Algeria are known and not for one second have we hesitated in responding to any request. Even now we continue, God be praised, to back Algeria. We have not failed to respond when asked for something. If we are helping other countries in the development process, this is within the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which strives to make use of the blessings God has granted it for the growth of its country and which denies nothing to its brothers and kin in the Arab and Islamic nations. However, we do not give to one side at the expense of another; on the contrary, we back all and help all according to programs and plans in line with the development programs being carried out by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia abroad in the fraternal Islamic countries. We do not give to one country at the expense of another. Our brethren in Algeria are aware that we do not hesitate for one second to back development programs in their country through loans or in other ways. As I have already mentioned, we in no way would have (?replied) but we have been pained by such statements, which we in no way expected [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The radio representative asked his excellency about recent reports in some Algerian papers accusing the kingdom of not backing the Palestinian cause, and describing the kingdom's posture as negative. The minister of information replied as follows: [begin recording]

[Yamani] As for this question, and accusations circulated in the Algerian papers and in some quarters in Algeria unfortunately casting doubts on the posture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward the Palestinian question, it is in fact a very regrettable matter. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia--from the days of the late King 'Abd al-Aziz--has stood by and has done all it could on the Palestinian question. The blood of the honorable sons of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ran on the battlefields in the 1948 war and a short while before that. As we have stated, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia spared nothing--even the blood of its sons--in defense of this cause.

After all this, someone comes along and casts doubts about the posture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this question. Was not the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the first to kindle the Palestinian revolution in 1966 at the meeting known to the Palestinian brethren held in Switzerland between His Majesty King Faysal, God's blessing be upon him, and the Palestinian leaders? Was not the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the first to (?back this revolution)? Was it not the first to extend aid to the revolution [words indistinct]? The line of the kingdom on the Palestinian cause is very clear and it continues to defend this cause until victory, with God's permission, is achieved for the Palestinian brethren. We will not slacken for one moment in this kingdom.

These postures have continued up to this day and will continue until victory is achieved. Those rumormongers should consult history and should fully realize that this country does not indulge in any kind of vituperation and that it has always stood by men who, with complete sincerity, silence and faith, give their support and do not seek publicity, but will not accept any hints which harm their dignity or the dignity of their people.

The cause and its backing are a sacred duty to all of us. The kingdom will continue to back it and every individual in the country will continue to back this struggle. We will not take notice of such useless rowdyism.

I believe it is time for the Palestinian brethren to have their say and to publicize the postures of the kingdom; this will be the reply to such [word indistinct] press and this irresponsible course we notice in the Algerian press. [end recording]

UAE

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES PLO'S ZUHAYR MUHSIN

JN061751Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1720 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Dubayy, 6 June--Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid received at the Defense Ministry today Mr Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the PLO Military Department. The meeting dealt with current developments in the Middle East and the situation in southern Lebanon.

YEMEN--PDRY

DEFENSE MINISTER BEGINS VISIT TO BULGARIA

LD021612Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Defense Minister 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar and a delegation accompanying him begin an official visit to Bulgaria today at the invitation of Bulgarian Minister of Defense Dobri Dzhurov.

"Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar met with Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and chairman of the GDR Council of State, in Berlin yesterday. During the meeting Comrade Erich Honecker affirmed the support of the SED and the workers of the GDR for the just anti-imperialist struggle of the PDRY, side by side with the USSR and the other socialist countries, mindful of its internationalist obligation."

QNA: PDRY OPPOSITION LEADERS ESTABLISH FRONT IN CAIRO

NC031251Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 3 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 3 June--A unified national front composed of some PDRY opposition leaders now residing in Egypt has recently been formed in Cairo. 'Abd al-Qawi Makkawi has been elected leader of this front, Muhammad 'Ali Haytham deputy leader, and the eldest son of Qahtan ash-Sha'bi, the former PDRY prime minister, has been elected secretary general of the front.

Quoting informed sources in Cairo, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' says that Cairo was chosen as the headquarters of this front and that branches will be opened in some of the Arab and Islamic capitals.

The paper says that the front will have a military wing which will include a number of PDRY military men who now reside in some of the Arab countries.

AS-SADAT SPEAKS AT MEETING WITH 2D FIELD ARMY

NC061305Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jun 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met with the commanders, officers and soldiers of the 2d Field Army in Ismailia this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Chief of Staff Lt Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, and 2d Field Army Commander Maj Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali.

President as-Sadat delivered a speech in which he discussed the latest developments concerning his peace initiative. He also discussed the significance of the recent referendum in which the people took part.

Further Report

NC061411Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 6 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 6 June--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met at noon today with the commanders, officers and men of the 2d Field Army in the Al-Jala' camp in the city of Ismailia.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Husni Mubarak, vice president; Hasan Kamil, director of the president's office; Engineer Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Suez Canal Authority; and Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the Ismailia Governorate.

Upon his arrival in the camp, President as-Sadat was met by Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, armed forces chief of staff; Maj Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali, commander of the 2d Field Army; and the commanders of the services and units of the 2d Field Army.

The meeting began with a reading from the Holy Koran, after which Maj Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali made a speech, which was followed by a speech by Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi.

President as-Sadat then made a speech, in which he said: In the name of God; my sons, officers and men of the 2d Field Army, on this day every year I am delighted to meet you and your brothers, the combatants of the 2d Army, air force, air defense, the special forces and all the services of our armed forces.

I am really delighted because through your splendid combat role, you and your brothers and the services of the armed forces transformed the day of the border, the day of 5 June, from a day of mourning into a day of triumph for the will of Egypt and for the will of the whole Arab nation. You also proved to the entire world that we can fight and that we can explode forever any myths about force.

President as-Sadat said: You proved that we can absorb the most modern means of technology. You proved the stature of the Egyptian man in all the projects of the armed forces and the air defense forces. You restored to every Arab his dignity and glory. This is why it is Egypt's duty to honor you on this day, every year. As I have said, you changed this day from a day of bitterness, defeat, division and pain into a day of victory, glory and honor. You changed it, as I have told you, by your splendid performance. Your implementation of the orders I issued to you was most splendid and complete. You faced an enemy equipped with all types of modern technology and you crossed the canal. You overran the Bar-Lev line and ended the myth of the invincible army. You then returned with your heads held high to complete your training and perform your daily duties in order to defend Egypt and, if this becomes necessary and if Israel continues in its way of not understanding what is behind the initiative in order to complete the liberation battle.

President as-Sadat added: Let us start at the beginning. I believe you are better entitled than anyone else to hear from me what has happened and what is happening regarding the initiative up to this very moment when I am meeting with you. As you know, at the opening of parliament in November 1977, we were preparing for the Geneva conference. We contacted the superpowers. Carter received all the Arab foreign ministers and then he received the Israeli foreign minister. We began talking but the matter ended in a regrettable disagreement. It was a disagreement on the working paper in Geneva. Would it be an American paper, Arab paper, Israeli paper of Israeli-American paper? You heard me saying: I am not concerned about any paper. What I am concerned about is that we go to Geneva to place Israel face to face with the world and with its responsibilities.

President as-Sadat said: It is regrettable that the differences between us and Israel--over the agenda or over going to Geneva as a single Arab delegation or as several delegations--are now less than the differences existing among the Arabs.

The president added: President Carter had sent me a working paper and I did not reject it. President Carter then sent an amended working paper, and I also did not reject it.

President as-Sadat indicated that at his last meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President al-Asad suggested that we go to Geneva as a single delegation. President as-Sadat rejected the suggestion, saying: My argument was that for us, as Arabs, it would be ideal to be united; however, our presence in the form of several delegations would enable us to distribute the tasks among ourselves and to register achievements at Geneva, every one of us through his own efforts, particularly because I was aware that the Soviet Union would be maneuvering. If we Arabs were committed to a plan and to individual tasks, we would be able to place Israel face to face with the world and with its responsibilities.

Speaking of the problem of Palestinian representation at Geneva, he noted that President Carter had sent him a note explaining that going to Geneva as a single Arab delegation would facilitate the issue of Palestinian representation, particularly since Syria wanted a single delegation.

President as-Sadat said: I convened the Egyptian National Security Council to consider this issue. At the meeting we unanimously agreed that for the sake of Palestine we would accept going to Geneva as a single delegation.

The president indicated that on the very same day on which Egypt agreed to go to Geneva in a single Arab delegation, Syria rejected this. The president said: Since that time, I began to think that I should not leave Egypt's destiny at the mercy of party emotions, because political parties would agree on one thing one day, only to reject the same thing the next day.

President as-Sadat reminded his audience of what Syria had done 2 days prior to the October war when Syria sent a message to the Soviet Union asking for a cease-fire only 2 days after the battle had begun. [sentence as received]

President as-Sadat explained that as a result of all these party outbiddings and their effect on the question of peace, he had decided to carry out his initiative by visiting Jerusalem for the sake of peace and in order to spare a soldier or officer of the armed forces shedding a single drop of blood. President as-Sadat reaffirmed his determination to achieve peace based on justice. He said: If this peace can be achieved without having to go to war, then I welcome it.

In this respect the president explained that he had approved of the first disengagement agreement and then of the second disengagement agreement under which the Israeli forces withdrew from the passes in Sinai. The president indicated that he had approved of this [presumably the second disengagement agreement] after we had endorsed the plan for eliminating the [Israeli] bulge following a 7-hour discussion with all the commanders.

He said that the elimination of the bulge would have led to a general massacre, because the Egyptian forces did not have before them anything to worry about, such as the canal, the Bar-Lev line or anything else, and of course this would have taken place at a time when the United States was still resupplying Israel. This was reaffirmed by the then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

President as-Sadat reaffirmed that he is in favor of peace and not of a separate solution. He said: I want peace in order to develop Egypt and rebuild the armed forces at the same time.

He said that no Arab leader would have said more than what I said before the Israeli Knesset, and no one could have expressed [the Arab viewpoint] as I expressed it before the Knesset and the whole world. President as-Sadat pointed out in his meeting with the men of the 2d Field Army that the performance of the soldiers and officers of the armed forces compelled even the Israeli leaders to acknowledge the capabilities of the Egyptian Army.

He said: I sensed this during my visit to Jerusalem when the Israeli command was feeling nervous as a result of a military exercise ordered by Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war, last autumn in response to an exercise carried out by Israel.

President as-Sadat pointed out that because he sensed the love for peace on the part of the people of Israel during his visit to Jerusalem, he declared there: "Let us consider the October war as the last one." He said: I told them in Israel: "You have a security problem; let us discuss it. But the peace we establish must be based on justice."

President as-Sadat stressed that peace can only be achieved by solving the Palestinian problem. He said that Egypt will not disavow its historic responsibility despite the abuses of the so-called rejection front, which attacked us during the first and second disengagement agreements.

The president said that we disagreed with the Israelis on the Palestinian issue during the Ismailia talks. He said that Begin brought with him the plan for autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. The president said: We rejected this plan because accepting it would have meant giving Israel the legitimate right to stay and maintain its occupation there. The president pointed out that during the Ismailia talks he stressed to Menahem Begin that Egypt does not accept the presence of one single Israeli in Sinai and that the international borders between us are known.

President as-Sadat explained that when the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee began its work it did not have much work to do because the aim was not Sinai; the task of the committee was to discuss the stages of withdrawal. President as-Sadat then explained the circumstances which led to the suspension of the Egyptian-Israeli political committee talks. He said: I was taken in by the false concept or approach to the problem which Israel held. This became apparent in the opening speech of Moshe Dayan in the first meeting of the committee, in which he said that Israel wants peace, but the negotiations demand that each side make concessions.

The president said that this Israeli concept would be fine in the solution of any problem in the world, but not in our problem, because the meaning of meeting halfway in this case is for us to give up half of our rights.

He said that the concept of meeting halfway is not good as far as the territory and the rights of the Palestinian people are concerned. He added: It is possible for the question of security and guarantees to be reciprocal. If Israel asks the Arabs for guarantees, the Arabs must ask Israel for guarantees.

President as-Sadat said that when the Israeli prime minister began his attempts to present history from his point of view and when the continuation in the approach to the problem which Israel wanted us to take had become wrong, the president recalled the Egyptian foreign minister from the meetings of the Political Committee in Jerusalem.

The president said that when President Carter contacted him, feeling disturbed following Egypt's decision to break off the Military Committee's discussions, he told him that the approach is basically wrong and Egypt rejects it. At the same time, Egypt does not consider that the initiative has ended. President as-Sadat said that he informed President Carter during that exchange that the goal must be peace and that we agree to hold meetings of the Military Committee. The president affirmed that the military and political talks with Israel will remain suspended until Israel changes its position.

President as-Sadat then summed up the situation with regard to the peace initiative by saying that the initiative has not only put Israel face to face with the world for the first time, but it has also made the world aware of the reality of the Arab cause for the first time.

The president pointed out in this respect that the concept of Israeli security is based on drawing the United States to its side and keeping it away from the Arabs. He said: I had issued my instructions as strategic guidance to the late war minister, Ahmad Isma'il, to frustrate the concept of Israeli security because by doing so a new concept would prevail in the world. That was what had actually happened.

President as-Sadat emphasized that the initiative has ended Israel's monpoly over the United States. He said that the best proof of this is the aircraft deal covering Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The president added: The type or number of aircraft is not important to me. What is important is the principle that the United States is no longer monopolized by Israel alone and Israel's policy is no longer the only policy in the area. President as-Sadat lauded in this respect the policy of President Carter. He said that President Carter has put an end to Israel's monpoly over the United States by making the United States have a policy and interests that are different from those of Israel.

On this occasion President as-Sadat greeted the Egyptian Air Force men and said that the Soviet embargo on the sales of weapons to Egypt aimed at turning our aircraft into pieces of scrap lying on the ground. The air force, however, is operational despite the fact that the Soviet embargo is still in force.

President as-Sadat said that his peace initiative has not failed. He added that the initiative comes up with something new every day. The attitude of the whole world toward Israel is proof the initiative has not failed. The president added that the problem is bigger than this.

On our part, we did not abolish the initiative. Our hearts and minds are open, but Israel must provide new elements; and when this happens, we will be prepared to discuss the establishment of peace. President as-Sadat said: We are prepared to offer peace and security, but we are not prepared to give up any part of the land or our sovereignty.

The president then moved on to the domestic situation, particularly the popular referendum on the principles of protecting the homefront and social peace which took place on 21 May. He said: We will not go back on democracy, and we will not go back to the one-party system or the extraordinary measures.

He said: We have done away with defeat, and we are now turning our attention to a new structure which calls for the Egyptian man to attain his security and dignity. He emphasized that our democracy does not crush the individual for the sake of society and that our socialism is working for the good of man and not for destroying man. He said that no man must take advantage of our economic crisis.

At his meeting with the men and officers of the 2d Field Army, the president said that the New Al-Wafd Party dissolved itself last week after the people had made their decision that there shall be no return for an old face.

The president added that this means that the party was only one man--the leader of the party who was after personal glory and settling his accounts with the July revolution and taking Egypt back to the era of the pashas.

The president pointed out that the people in their referendum said no to three forces: the Marxists, those who are seeking personal glory by old methods--namely, by gaining power--and the centers of power which corrupted the post-23 July phase.

He said that the Marxists, who had dominated the leftist party, were the ones who grew up under the care of the Soviet Union, which is attacking Egypt and adopting hostile attitudes toward it, including its disapproval of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. The Soviet Union is angry because the United States has agreed to send aircraft to Egypt, and it accuses the United States of leading a campaign to cause further deterioration of the situation in the Middle East and of working against peace.

President as-Sadat enumerated the hostile stands taken by the Soviets against Egypt. He pointed to their attack on Egypt because of the peace initiative. The president contrasted the initiative to the Soviet offer made in 1972 to convene a meeting in Tashkent between President as-Sadat and the then Israeli prime minister, Golda Meir.

The president said: Holding that meeting at that time would have meant capitulation, because at that time we were in a state of defeat. Despite this fact, the Soviets do not regard the initiative as a peace initiative.

Concerning those persons who had corrupted political life prior to 23 July, the president said: We are not attacking the pre-1952 Revolution [officials and personalities]. If we isolated those who had insulted the people prior to 1952, then it is imperative for us to isolate those who had done the same thing after 1952.

President as-Sadat emphasized that there will be no going back to the pre-1952 era and to the political and party corruption which prevailed in that era.

He said: We also do not accept the idea of the Marxists controlling the Egyptian left or their assumption of key posts in the information media or in other areas. The president reaffirmed that there will be no going back on the system of parties and that there will be no return to the system of custodianship and to the concentration camps. He said: Now, and in the wake of the referendum, it is imperative for every human being in Egypt to know how to adhere to ethics. At the end of the meeting, the president called for a return to ethics and to the basic ideals of our people. He said: We carefully want the procession of democracy to go on, and we will not resort to martial law.

He noted that every organization will have at its disposal a full statement on any violation perpetrated by any of its members, and if this organization does not bring this member to task, we will make him account for his action. God willing, our procession will fulfill its objective.

PASSPORTS OF CRITICS ABROAD MAY BE WITHDRAWN

NC0708427 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 7 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 June--The weekly magazine 'AKHIR SA'AH reports today that the socialist prosecutor will demand the withdrawal of the passports of certain Egyptian journalists abroad. This applies to those journalists who refuse to return to Cairo after being notified of their recall by the Egyptian Embassies in the European and Arab capitals to answer charges about their hostile actions and activities against the domestic front and social peace in Egypt.

The magazine says that the socialist prosecutor will give the names of these journalists to the competent quarters at the Interior and Foreign ministries to adopt the necessary measures. The magazine adds that a responsible source at the Department of the Socialist Prosecutor has stated that the Egyptian journalists abroad have been divided into the following two groups:

1. The group of Libya and Iraq: Mahmud Hani, the chief prosecutor at the office of the socialist prosecutor will conduct the investigation with members of this group.

2. The European group based in Paris: Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tawfiq al-Haddad will conduct the investigation with members of this group after collecting evidence and proof.

The responsible source added that these journalists have actually been notified of their recall by the Egyptian Embassies. He further said that if any of them refuses to return to assist in the investigation, his passport will be withdrawn at the request of the socialist prosecutor.

LAST EDITION OF AL-AHALI TO BE CONFISCATED

NC0708457 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0723 GMT 7 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 June--It was decided last night to confiscate the last edition of AL-AHALI, the organ of the leftist National Grouping Party in Egypt. According to the decisions which the party announced the day before yesterday, the last edition of the paper was scheduled to be issued today.

AL-AKHBAR reports today that Attorney General Ahmad Musa has informed Counselor Anwar Abu Sahla, the president of Southern Cairo Court, of the contents of the paper which led to its confiscation. The court will hold a session this morning to consider the case.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTS ON DAYAN'S STATEMENTS

NC0614312 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jun 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "The Facts on the Current Situation in the Middle East"]

[Excerpts] The statements and stands of Israeli officials on the principles for the establishment of peace in the Middle East no longer arouse astonishment or surprise. However, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's recent statements nevertheless arouse some astonishment and ridicule at the same time.

After a meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, Dayan said that the Israeli Government does not have to make operational decisions but must make decisions pertaining to certain principles. Regarding Israel's stand on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Dayan said that after 11 years of military rule in the occupied territories, Israel must abolish this rule as early as possible, whether there is peace or not. However, Dayan put the condition that no independent Palestinian state should be set up in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and that Israel should retain the right to purchase lands and build settlements in these two areas.

The Israeli foreign minister added that all Israel's territorial claims, whether in Sinai or in the Golan Heights or in the Jordan valley, are based on security considerations.

One does not need too much intelligence to understand the meaning of these stands or statements by the Begin government. Their direct meaning is that Israel is on the verge of taking measures to abolish military rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, establish a civil administration, seize more lands in these Palestinian Arab territories and build settlements there. In other words, Israel is bent on annexing these territories without waiting for negotiations or anything else.

What applies to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip also applies to parts of Egyptian Sinai and the Syrian Golan Heights that Israel wants to annex. Israel has built settlements in these areas in Sinai and the Golan Heights as a first step toward annexation.

The question which must be asked at this point is: What is the aim, therefore, behind Israel's desire to resume the talks with Egypt, which has suspended these talks? There is only one straight answer to this question, and that is that Egypt is required to endorse Israel's policy and to sign a treaty with it on this basis. This is Israel's stand from the actual and practical standpoint.

We have presented the facts, plain as they are, regarding the current situation. As for our comment on all this, it is better for us to wait and see what the developments will bring forth.

AL-AKHBAR ATTACKS IRAQ, RADIO MOSCOW, BBC

LD0515542 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 May 78 p 1 LD

[Musa Sabri article: "Baghdad Scaffolds"]

[Text] No denial has been issued by the dictatorial bloody regime in Iraq of agency reports regarding the execution of 14 members of the Iraqi Communist Party.

Indeed, what has come out of Baghdad confirms such reports. This is an article published by the newspaper of the bloody party ruling in Iraq. The paper threatens with execution any communist engaged in any counterpolitical activities in Iraq.

Previously the paper accused the communists of attacking Egypt not because of ideological beliefs, as it does, but because they receive orders to do so from Moscow.

At a time when all this is happening in Baghdad, Moscow Radio is receiving all these slaps on the face silently. It is not defending Soviet agents in Iraq, nor is it objecting to the death sentences passed at a secret summary court. Also it is not denying that its agents received their orders from Moscow to attack Egypt.

Moscow Radio is to be excused because it is devoting its daily attack against Egypt and crying over democracy there. It is also busy carrying statements by Egyptian communists. Therefore, it is unable to speak as it is being slapped by Baghdad, because, otherwise, its attack on Egypt would become a joke. What can it say as Iraqi guillotines are chopping off heads while it is daily kicking up a storm because the Egyptian judiciary has confiscated a communist newspaper? The confiscation of an Egyptian Communist paper is a major crime according to Moscow Radio, yet by contrast the scaffolds that were erected for the communists in Baghdad is a matter that would better be left alone.

How miserable the Egyptian Communists living in Baghdad must be. They allowed themselves to attack their country and their soil--Egypt--and now see their Iraqi colleagues being hanged on scaffolds and the executioner's sword cutting off their heads while they can do nothing but remain silent.

Leaving Moscow Radio aside, nowadays we hear very strange things from BBC radio. It is trying to become an English version of Baghdad Radio. If this radio's correspondent in Cairo thinks that the protection of his press freedom in Egypt means that he can join the slanderers, then he must understand that his respect for this freedom is a condition for his stay among us and that respecting this freedom also means reporting correctly to his radio. This is not our first experience of this kind with the BBC.

HIGHER POLITICAL, ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETS

NC062037Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpt] The Higher Political and Economic Planning Committee met this morning under Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. Engineer 'Isa Shahin, the minister for cabinet affairs, control and followup, has stated that the committee approved the allocation of 60 million pounds to complete the implementation of a number of vital projects. Included in these projects is the first stage of the Suez Canal development project, the construction of a new tunnel [as heard] under the Suez Canal to carry irrigation water to Sinai, and providing electricity to 100 new villages in addition to 500 villages which it had been decided to supply with electricity this year.

WAR MINISTER AL-JAMASI ARRIVES IN U.S. FOR TALKS

NC062127Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 6 Jun 78 NC

[From Adib Indrawus]

[Text] Washington, 6 June--Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi arrived at Andrews Air Force Base this afternoon at the start of a 10-day official visit to the United States in response to an invitation from U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown.

Upon his arrival at Andrews, General al-Jamasi was received by U.S. Defense Deputy Secretary Charles Duncan and senior U.S. officers.

He was also received by Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal and the military attache at the Egyptian Embassy, Maj Gen Muhammad Abu Ghazalah.

General al-Jamasi arrived aboard a special Egyptian plane from Paris, where he spent 1 night before leaving for Washington.

AL-AKHBAR PRINTS LETTER CRITICIZING AL-QADHDHAFI

NC070855Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 June--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR today publishes a letter which it has received from a Libyan citizen. In his letter the Libyan citizen describes some of Al-Qadhdhafi's recent eccentricities, as a result of which the citizen questions whether Al-Qadhdhafi will be able to survive as a ruler for long.

The letter says that Al-Qadhdhafi miraculously escaped an attempt to lynch him. The incident occurred at an army camp when a group of young officers surrounded him, but the intervention of 'Abd as-Salam Jallud saved his life. As soon as he left the camp, Al-Qadhdhafi ordered all of these officers to be executed by firing squad.

The letter also says that Al-Qadhdhafi has issued an order drafting into the army all young people in Benghazi, including those who are sick and medically unfit. Units from the armored corps surrounded the sports stadium in Benghazi where a soccer match was taking place, rounded up all the young people in the stadium and took them to army camps. Youths were also rounded up from coffee shops and movie theaters.

The letter says that everybody in Libya is now convinced that Al-Qadhdhafi has reached a state of complete madness. Al-Qadhdhafi recently issued an order dismissing all the imams of the mosques and replacing them with young people from the People's Committees who know nothing about religion. Every Friday Al-Qadhdhafi gives his own personal interpretation of the verses of the Koran.

The letter also says that Al-Qadhdhafi has issued an order nationalizing all houses and apartments, causing panic among the citizens and confusion in the Libyan economy.

KUWAITI PAPER: PRO-SOVIET COUP DISCOVERED IN IRAQ

NC060952Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 6 June--At a time when Iraqi-Soviet relations have deteriorated, relations between Baghdad and Riyadh have greatly improved, according to well-informed Arab diplomatic sources. These sources add that contacts have been held and visits--some of them unannounced--have been exchanged between the two capitals in the past 2 months. Discussions during these contacts and visits have centered on the establishment of strong Saudi-Iraqi cooperation to include other states in the area in order to safeguard the security of the gulf and protect the area from superpower conflicts and the growing Soviet influence in the African continent.

In a report datelined Paris, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today discloses that there has been an attempt backed by Moscow to overthrow the regime in Iraq and to replace it with a regime totally loyal to Soviet policy in Africa and the Middle East. The newspaper explains that the current tension in Soviet-Iraqi relations follows the Baghdad authorities' discovery of this coup attempt. The first clues to this attempt became clear at the end of April when the Baghdad authorities received information that a meeting of several Arab communist parties had been held in Cyprus in the middle of April. The meeting was attended by prominient members of the communist parties in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, as well as by representatives of secret communist cells in several other Arab countries.

Quoting the same sources, the paper adds that the Iraqi authorities have arrested the members of the Iraqi communist delegation which participated in the Cyprus meeting and obtained important information from them. It emerged that the participants studied the possibility of carrying out a military coup against the current regime in Baghdad on the basis that a completely pro-Soviet regime in Iraq would strengthen Moscow's position throughout the gulf area and in the Arab area in particular.

According to these diplomatic sources, the participants in the Cyprus meeting evaluated Iraq's position on the various developments in Africa and the Middle East; the Soviet Union's resentment of this position and of Baghdad's relations with some European states was evident. The Iraqi-French deal for Mirage planes which was concluded at the end of last year has also aroused the wrath of the Russians: Moscow does not accept Baghdad's following a balance policy between East and West, but considers the regime in Iraq as one of its main allies which is supposed to cooperate closely and strongly with it.

Quoting the same sources, the paper says that after gathering this information about the meeting in Cyprus, the Iraqi authorities carried out a wide-scale purge in the army which led to the arrest of many officers--some of them high ranking--and soldiers on the charge of collusion to carry out a coup. About 1,000 members of the Iraqi Communist Party were arrested and some of them were (?executed) last month.

The same sources say that Iraq has adopted two important measures in this regard, which were shrouded with complete secrecy and silence. The first measure was the closing of Iraqi airspace to Soviet warplanes and the second was the suspension of maritime facilities for Soviet warships until further notice.

These sources rule out (?the possibility) of a complete estrangement between Baghdad and Mosco.., but they believe that the Russians have definitely lost an important round in Iraq, that Baghdad will pursue a policy independent of Moscow, and that its discovery of this plot might lead it to reconsider its relations with several Arab states and movements.

MINISTER DENIES REPORTS OF UNREST IN KURDISH REGION

JN0617 40Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 June--Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has stated that the clamor in the media about the situation in northern Iraq is part of the campaign launched by imperialism, Zionism and reaction against the Iraqi revolution. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, the minister said that this frantic campaign is aimed at distorting the firm Iraqi stand against the Zionist-imperialist aggression and Iraq's opposition to the capitulationist schemes which are aimed at eventually liquidating the Palestinian cause, perpetuating the occupation of Arab territories, restoring imperialist influence in the region and harming our friends.

The minister said that the situation in norther Iraq is quiet and stable and that the Kurdish citizens are reaping the fruits of the autonomy granted to them by the Iraqi party and government. The Kurdish people, he said, are contributing to the wide-scale development projects for which large and extraordinary amounts of funds have been allocated, funds estimated at hundreds of millions of dinars.

The minister said that the attempts at infiltration and sabotage are limited and that the remnants of the group of agents have been proved to have been financed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the Zionist enemy, who do not approve of peace and stability in the autonomous region. They are fabricating statements and allegations that are circulated by the reactionary U.S. and Zionist media. The latest of these allegations is the lies about Iraqi-Iranian military coordination to pursue the mutineers.

Concluding his statement to the newspaper AL-QABAS, the minister said that we strongly deny such reports and affirm the ability of our people and their armed forces to insure the security of our country and to strike at all agents and saboteurs.

SADDAM HUSAYN SPEAKS ON ROLE OF RELIGION IN IRAQ

JN0617 21Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text of speech entitled "A Look at Religion and Heritage" by Saddam Husayn, Iraqi Revolution Command Council vice chairman, at meeting of the Information Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Baghdad; date not given--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] When we talk about religion and heritage with pride, we must understand that our philosophy, itself, is neither religion nor heritage. Our philosophy is that expressed by our ideological concepts and by our policies related to these concepts. The past with all that it teaches about life, and with its traditions, laws and religion, is basic to our society and influences our ethics, heritage and traditions. However, our ideology is not the result of all that has been transmitted by the past and by religion.

It is a comprehensive and advanced view of life and a comprehensive solution for its intricacies; our ideology is meant to push life forward on the road of revolutionary development. When our ideology was being developed, it was formulated in such a way as to reflect the reality of our nation while simultaneously being more advanced. Since religion and heritage constitute two basic and vital elements of this reality, their influence on our idelogy is vital.

Our party is not neutral when it comes to atheism or religious beliefs; it always favors religious beliefs. However, our party is not a religious party and must not become one.

Some hostile forces are using religion to achieve political objectives. We must not use religion for political reasons and we must avoid directly confronting those who use religion for such purposes. We must also avoid opposing them with traditional methods. Some reactionary circles--prodded by colonialism--adopt provocative stands against the revolution employing the guise of religious slogans. They do this in the hope that the revolution will be forced to interfere in religious matters in such a manner as to provoke certain sectors of the population which are part of the revolution's general movement. Such actions carried out by certain suspect quarters are intended to create a situation obliging certain party members and government officials to behave in an undisciplined and unenlightened manner. This situation would make the majority appear as guilty as the deviating minority. By doing so, the suspect quarters also aim at isolating the revolution from the masses and pushing the revolution into a state of confusion where it will be difficult to distinguish friend from foe. In this case the gun of the revolution would sometimes harm a friend when it was actually aimed at the enemy of the revolution and at those who have deviated from it. These deviating circles of reaction--most likely instigated by foreign elements--realize that they are incapable of attracting the people if they support a political party hostile to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. For this reason they try to drag down certain sectors of the population by calling on them to practice religious rites according to special formulas, with the aim of eventually transforming the practitioners of these rites into political allies hostile to the revolution.

Promoters of such tactics base their plans on the assumption that we will commit errors in our tactical behavior. They try to generalize these errors in order to negatively influence our strategy and to attempt to tip the balance in their favor in their struggle to win the battle against us. At the very least they want to use these mistakes to help erect a psychological barrier between the party, and its ideology, and certain circles of the population. Thus these elements of the population would be prevented or obstructed from continuing their dialog and communication with the ideology of the revolution. Therefore, we must prevent religion from being used as a weapon by the state and in society. We must also prevent involving the revolution in the issue of religion and stress the necessity of going back to our original beliefs. We must be proud of religion as such without attaching politics to it. When one appoints himself a preacher or religious guide --particularly if he has a party or government post--and asks the people to perform religious rites, he is obliged to counsel them on how to perform these rites and on the commitments which will result. Once you begin doing this, trouble and problems will arise because differences of opinion will occur according to the doctrines of the various Islamic sects. Why should a party or government official adopt such a policy, which cannot be successful, when he can win through other means?

If the state were to adopt a policy on religion, we would be placing our masses outside the area of our influence. Our masses would be divided, our party would be divided and the ideological structure on which our party is based would be shaken. If we did this, the enemies of the revolution would win the battle while our principles and policy would be defeated.

Our correct and principled viewpoint toward religion is expressed by the fact that we take care of all places of worship in a balanced way. We have a comprehensive and principled viewpoint, without promoting, with the means at the state's disposal, the special characteristics of any of the Islamic doctrines or their individual interpretations. If we did otherwise, our nation would be torn apart. We should also avoid turning our information and cultural centers, as well as the other state institutions, into platforms for sectarianism where ideas and various individual judgments are put forward in an obviously sectarian and discriminatory manner. This is not our task. Our task is to talk in a balanced manner about our heritage and about the leaders of our spiritual heritage, as well as about the leaders of our pan-Arab genius--leaders who have offered great services to humanity and the whole world.

Let us allow everyone to perform his ordinary religious rites according to his choice and without our interfering in his affairs. Our basic condition in allowing them to do this is that they must avoid contradicting or opposing our policy, which is designed at developing and building society according to the choice of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. We warn them that if they use religion to conceal their objectives of arriving at a state of contradiction and opposition between the revolution's course and objectives and the objectives of religious practice, this will only serve neocolonialism and its objectives. Such activities will be severely punished and will be subject to the iron first of the state.

We must not imagine that we have to wage a political battle under the slogan "Who is for Religion and Who Is Against It." If we do this, we will permit colonialism and foreign influence to infiltrate our ranks from a new angle. While we reject atheism, we must not become men of religion in our dealing with this subject; we must not transform state institutions into organs with the task of performing religious rites and traditional religious duties. A policy of interfering in religious affairs will lead to the division of our people, not only into believers and nonbelievers, but to divisions among the believers themselves because of the differences in their religious doctrines.

IRAQ WILL NOT ATTEND CAIRO ARAB INFORMATION MEETING

JN061359Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 June--Iraq today apololgized for not being able to participate in the meetings of the Permanent Arab Information Committee scheduled to be held in Cairo on 27 July in preparation for the Arab information ministers conference.

This is contained in a cable Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi sent to Dr Salim al-Yafi, assistant Arab League secretary general.

It will be recalled that Iraq does not attend any meetings held in Cairo because of the treasonous and capitulationist step which Anwar as-Sadat, head of the Egyptian regime, took by visiting occupied Palestine.

INFORMATION MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOSCOW, MAKES STATEMENT

JN062058Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah returned to Amman from Moscow today at the conclusion of a brief official visit to the Soviet Union. The minister held talks with Mr Lapin, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, to promote cooperation between the two countries in the field of information within the framework of the information program resulting from the cultural agreement signed between the two countries.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent, Abu 'Awdah said that he met with leading media representatives and journalists in Moscow, including the directors of TASS and the NOVOSTI news agency, the editor in chief of the newspaper PRAVDA, the chairman of the Soviet Journalists Union and a number of senior editors.

The minister said that he exchanged viewpoints with the Soviet officials on various information issues and on the role of the Jordanian information media on both national and pan-Arab levels. He said that he met with Kornienko, first deputy minister of foreign affairs and acting minister of foreign affairs. [name and title as received] They discussed aspects of the Middle East issue and its dimensions.

The minister said that he found great appreciation and understanding for Jordan's political stands and for the positive role of His Majesty King Husayn in directing this policy. He found real satisfaction among the Soviet officials with the relations of friendship between the two countries. The officials look forward to developing these relations. The minister said that he extended invitations to a number of officials in the Soviet information departments to visit Jordan. The invitations were accepted and the dates of the visits will be fixed later.

SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN061140Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee, arrived in Amman this morning on a 1-day visit to Jordan. His Majesty King Husayn received him on arrival at Amman airport. Also receiving him at the airport were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the Senate president, the president of the National Consultative Council, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the court minister, the ministers, senior state officials and the dean of the diplomatic corps.

The Sudanese president was accorded an official welcome. A band played the Jordanian and Sudanese national anthems. His Majesty King Husayn and President Numayri reviewed the guards of honor.

President Numayri is accompanied by an official delegation including Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, vice president and foreign minister; Abu Bakr 'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Muhammad Mahjub Sulayman, press adviser.

Visits Army Command

JN061843Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri paid a visit this afternoon to the Jordanian Armed Forces General Command. Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and senior officers in the army command briefed them on the military situation in the area and on the organization, arming and training of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The briefing was attended by the official delegation accompanying President Numayri and by his excellency the prime minister, his excellency the chief of the royal court, the chief of staff and senior officers.

Husayn, Numayri Hold Talks

JN062030Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri held a session of official talks this evening at Al-Hashimiyah Palace. The session lasted 3 hours. During the talks, President Numayri, in his capacity as chairman of the Arab League's Solidarity Committee, briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the results of his talks with Arab kings and presidents during the two tours he made with the aim of achieving Arab solidarity and conciliation. The two sides reviewed all aspects of the Arab situation and relations among the Arab states. His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the efforts being made to convene an Arab summit conference and the agenda Jordan has proposed for the summit. His majesty also briefed President Numayri on Jordan's stand toward current Arab issues.

The two sides discussed the means to strengthen and develop relations between the two fraternal countries and the cooperation between them.

The following attended the talks on the Jordanian side: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister and foreign minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the minister of the royal court, the commander in chief of the armed forces and the minister of state for foreign affairs. The following attended the talks on the Sudanese side: Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, vice president and foreign minister; Abu Bakr 'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Muhammad Mahjub Sulayman, press adviser to President Numayri and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

His Majesty King Husayn gave a dinner this evening at Al-Hashimiyah Palace in honor of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. The dinner was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and the members of the Jordanian and Sudanese sides.

Concludes Visit

JN070940Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 7 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 7 June--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee, left Amman this morning following a 1-day visit to Jordan. During his visit, Numayri held expanded talks with His Majesty King Husayn on Arab relations and current efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and accord.

President Numayri was seen off at Amman airport by His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the presidents of the Senate and National Consultative Council, the chief of the royal court, the minister of the royal cabinet, the commander in chief of the armed forces, a number of ministers, high-ranking officials, the dean of the diplomatic corps and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON NUMAYRI'S CURRENT MISSION

JN070650Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Jun 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The Jordanian newspapers today devote their editorials to President Numayri's current mission, his visit to Jordan and his talks with His Majesty King Husayn. The papers point out that the talks dealt with the current Arab situation and the restoration of Arab solidarity to confront developments in the area.

Writing on this subject under the headline "On the Road of Arab Solidarity," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: With sincere fraternal feelings, Jordan, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, yesterday received President Ja'far Numayri, who came to Amman on his second tour aimed at restoring Arab solidarity.

Naturally, President Numayri's attempt is received with deep understanding in Jordan, particularly as its leader, His Majesty King Husayn, has constantly called for Arab solidarity and stressed the need for the Arab leaders to rise to the level necessary to confront the grave dangers menacing the nation. King Husayn was even the first to call for holding a summit. Jordan also urged the formulation of a work program aimed at drawing up a unified Arab strategy.

Since His Majesty King Husayn's call has strongly contributed to motivating Arab efforts to rebuild the Arab rank, and since the Sudanese president has carried out and is still carrying out this delicate task valiantly and diligently, it is incumbent upon the other Arab sides to play their indispensable role in order to bring about the success of this task. This, the paper adds, would enable the Arab countries to control their cause and to play a real role in achieving the desired, honorable solution.

Needless to say, the time factor in restoring Arab solidarity can no longer be neglected because Arab solidarity represents an essential pillar in building intrinsic power and a unified Arab strategy, particularly as the enemy is utilizing every second to consolidate his occupation of the usurped Arab territories, to expand at their expense and to play havoc with their heritage.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON U.S. STAND IN NATO MEETING

JN020906Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Jun 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Editorial: "A Meal of Stones Served on the U.S. Table"]

[Text] The United States has succeeded in weakening the declaration dealing with NATO's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. This declaration, contained in the final statement of the conference, did not go beyond expressing mere reassurances and was phrased in general terms. The European partners in NATO had wished to express NATO's position in stronger terms, such as calling on Israel to withdraw and to recognize Palestinian rights. But Israel appealed to the United States to prevent the issuance of a NATO statement making any clear or fixed demands on Israel.

The United States responded to the Israeli appeal. Cyrus Vance called Simcha Dinitz, the Israeli ambassador, and allayed his fears beforehand--that is, before the issuance of the statement--by informing him that the Israeli request would be taken into consideration.

Thus, the United States has aborted a unique opportunity--which should have been grasped--of incorporating a strongly worded declaration in the NATO statement which would have placed Israel before its responsibilities concerning withdrawal and the recognition of Palestinian rights. Had NATO adopted such a strong position it would have contributed greatly to the efforts at breaking the deadlock imposed by Israel on the peace issue in the area. But the United States, governed by a willful desire to deal singlehandedly with the issue, leaving out its NATO partners and with the desire to convince Israel and the Arabs that it alone holds the reins, opposed the NATO resolution and succeeded in weakening it. This was the gift Washington presented to Tel Aviv as a gesture of its loyalty to the special relations existing between Israel and the United States.

It is obvious that the United States did not want to lose the opportunity offered by the NATO conference to make the Arabs understand that the European role they are so keen to establish is just a figment of their imaginations and that the Europeans are incapable of doing anything without U.S. consent and blessings. This has been confirmed by the fact that the European group--which previously had issued their famous statement outlining their position toward the Arab-Israeli conflict--was unable to express such a position within the NATO framework when the United States stood up and said no.

U.S. policy has succeeded in dealing a blow to the European role with the aim of weakening the Arab confidence in that role. It has also succeeded in saving Israel from the dangerous political dilemma it would have faced had the NATO statement succeeded in calling on Israel to withdraw and to recognize the Palestinians' rights.

Washington also has provided the Arabs with new evidence of the selfishness governing its actions on the peace issue. Washington has no intention of returning the issue to discussion within an international framework. Nor does it want to join hands with the Soviets to exercise pressure on Israel or to allow NATO to play an effective role in settling the Middle East conflict, because it does not want its European partners to get any credit for a solution. Washington also does not want to adopt a positive position which would result in reducing Israel back to size. All these considerations show that the United States wants to act unilaterally according to its own wishes and according to the well-known U.S.-Zionist alliances, some of which pertain to presidential elections and other considerations.

This U.S. position is not in opposition to the one Washington adopted on the issue of the tripartite planes deal, as this deal will not help to bring peace forth on a silver platter and will not change anything in the area's balance of power, a balance which the United States is always keen to preserve in Israel's favor by generously providing it with sophisticated weapons of mass destruction, such as those used against innocents in southern Lebanon.

As a result of U.S. selfishness determined by its strange alliances, the U.S. treatment of the issue can be compared to a meal of stones. Such a meal is fit only to convince the Arabs, particularly the optimists, to stop wasting their time waiting for anything else on the United States table except a meal of stones, for this meal will be the only one they will be served. Realizing this, perhaps they will revise their positions and use their huge frozen potential to build their inherent strength and enable them to hold the reins of their destiny in their own hands. This would be more beneficial to the Arabs than waiting for their meal of stones to be cooked.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RECEIVES REPORT ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLANS

NC061906Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 6 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 6 June--Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources have stated that the Foreign Ministry has received a report from the permament Lebanese UN delegate, Ghassan Tuwayni, informing it that the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, scheduled for next Tuesday, will be carried out in one phase and will take 18 hours.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese side is waiting for the Israeli reply to the observations given to General Siilasvuo, coordinator in chief of the United Nations forces in the Middle East, yesterday. Geneal Siilasvuo is scheduled to bring the reply with him when he retruns to Beirut on Saturday.

The Lebanese observations on the Israeli withdrawal program revolve around a number of points Israel has raised, including the question of Majs Sa'd Haddad and Sami ash-Shidyaq, who are cooperating in the implementation of the Israeli plans in the border villages.

It has been learned that the Lebanese side has been clear on this point. It has emphasized that the case of the two officers is a purely Lebanese affair and Israel has nothing to do with it. The Lebanese side has also asked General Siilasvuo to inform Israel of the need to close the so-called "good fence" on the border between the two countries.

New Israeli Conditions Reported

JN060802Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 6 June--Reports disclosed today that General Siilasvuo, chief coordinator of the UN forces in the Middle East, yesterday conveyed to Lebanese officials new Israeli conditions regarding the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the south. The reports added that these conditions include maintaining four observation posts in several areas and maintaining the good fence operation between southern Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

The reports pointed out that the Lebanese Government had turned down these conditions. The Lebanese Government asserted that the entry of the Lebanese Army to the south will take place immediately, that is, upon the withdrawal of the Israeli troops, and that a Lebanese military force estimated at 1,500 soldiers is now ready for this purpose.

AL-AHRAR: UNREGISTERED PALESTINIANS TO BE DEPORTED

JN061353Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 6 June--The newspaper AL-AHRAR, organ of the rightwing National Liberal Party, has declared that an agreement was reached at the Latakia summit between Presidents Ilyas Sarkis and Hafiz al-Asad on a program to deport from Lebanon those Palestinians who are not registered on UNRWA rolls.

The paper explains that the program was submitted by the Lebanese side at the Latakia summit and that the Syrian side approved it. According to the program, Palestinians not registered with UNRWA will be deported within a year after the Lebanese Army assumes the task of security. Regarding those who will remain in Lebanon, agreement was reached that they will stay in camps with no arms, provided that the Lebanese authorities assume the responsibility of maintaining law and order until the so-called Middle East problem is resolved.

ZGHARTA REGION PHALANGIST OFFICIAL MURDERED

NC071216Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 7 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] Armed men broke into the offices of the Mediterranean Bank in Shikka this morning. They were led by Fu'ad Jubrayil Franjiyah, who killed Jules al-Bayi', the mayor of (Kfardlaqus) and deputy chief of the Zgharta Phalangist region. Fu'ad Franjiyah and his companions escaped.

The murder incident aroused strong resentment among the families in Zgharta and the inhabitants of the area. Political, party and leading circles quickly took steps to avoid being implicated. A meeting was immediately conveyed at Phalangist headquarters in Beirut under the chairmanship of Pierre al-Jumayyil and in the presence of the party's secretary general, Joseph Sa'adah, and deputies Dr Georges Sa'adah, Louis Abu Sharaf, Amin al-Jumayyil, Commander of the Lebanese unified forces Bashir al-Umayyil and chairman of the Council of the Northern Regions Yusuf ad-Dahir. The conferees reviewed the deteriorating situation in the north as a result of such attacks.

Another meeting was held at the home of former President Sulayman Franjiyah in An-Naqqash.

It was reported this morning that the Arab deterrent forces command has decided to suspend firearms licenses in the north.

Representatives of Zgharta held a meeting during which they discussed the incident and the resentment caused by the crime. They issued a statement expressing resentment over the crime. The statement was signed by Father Sim'an ad-Duwayhi, Rene Mu'awwad, Tony Franjiyah, Salim Karam and Robert Bulus.

KUWAIT AL-ANBA': LEBANON BUYS 200 BRITISH TANKS

JN060902Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 6 June--The Lebanese Army has concluded a deal with Britain to purchase 200 Saladin tanks. The deal was made in complete secrecy. This was reported by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today. The paper says that the first shipment of these tanks was sent to Lebanon a few days ago. The paper says that the Lebanese Army is anxious to receive all of them as soon as possible.

The paper points out that this deal is part of the efforts of the Lebanese military command to build up the army. It is worth noting that the Saladin tanks are not big tanks and are usually used for security and for patrolling cities.

BEIRUT: SHIPMENT OF MILITARY VEHICLES ARRIVES

NC051543Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jun 78 NC

[Text] A new shipment of military vehicles and spare parts was unloaded at Beirut port this morning. This shipment is part of the equipment earmarked for rebuilding of the army, strengthening its capability and preparing it to carry out its national duty.

SARKIS RECEIVES ALGERIAN ENVOY, PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER

NC022008Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jun 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today received letters from the Algerian president and the PDRY Presidential Council chairman. He received the letters in separate meetings with the envoy of the Algerian president, Ambassador 'Abd al-Hamid Muhari, and with PDRY Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Muti'.

BRIEFS

NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR ARRIVES--The new Romanian ambassador to Lebanon, (Floria Sceito), arrived in Beirut at noon on 6 June. [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Jun 78 NC]

GHANAIAN ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--The Lebanese president today received the credentials of the new Ghanaian ambassador to Lebanon, Col Phillip Frank Quayem. [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jun 78 NC]

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY FRG PAPER DIE WELT

JN061430Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has stated that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat should announce that he is relinquishing his initiative and all its repercussions, especially since the whole world is now convinced that this initiative has failed.

In an interview with the FRG newspaper DIE WELT, Khaddam said that As-Sadat also should announce his adherence to joint Arab decisions and unanimous Arab actions. He should also end his contacts with the Israelis.

Asked about the reasons for the failure of As-Sadat's initiative, Khaddam said: Through his initiative, the Egyptian president overstepped Arab rights and essential Arab interests. He also relinquished the basic principles of national dignity and did not understand the nature and aims of Israeli policy. He further said: There is no doubt that As-Sadat's initiative--contrary to some people's delusions--has negatively influenced the process of peace and even aborted it. Thus As-Sadat should bear his responsibilities and declare his initiative to be a failure.

Regarding the proper way to attain true peace, Khaddam said: President Hafiz al-Asad has affirmed that Syria wants a just peace based on the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian issue, the occupied Arab territories and the whole situation in the Middle East.

Regarding Syria's role in Lebanon, Khaddam said: Syria is continuing its constructive role in Lebanon because Lebanon is a fraternal and neighboring country. What takes place in Lebanon influences the entire region. Khaddam stressed that the Syrians always proceed from their pan-Arab responsibilities toward the Arab nation. Never, he said, have Syrian regional interests outweighed Arab national interests, because the Syrians always feel they have a special role to play for all the Arabs. Proceeding from this feeling, Khaddam added, there is no one in Syria who calls for shirking responsibility in Lebanon.

Regarding relations between the Lebanese Government and the PLO, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs said: Syria has exerted and is still exerting great efforts to achieve reconciliation among the Lebanese themselves, on the one hand, and the Lebanese and Palestinians, on the other. Such a reconciliation constitutes a primary means to end the armed struggle and to abolish the specter of a return to war. Moreover, the two sides are our brothers and it is our responsibility to provide the best conditions which serve the security, unity, stability and territorial integrity of Lebanon. Simultaneously, because the PLO is the representative of the Palestinians, we protect the PLO and its role in the struggle for the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

In reply to a question on the Soviet participation in the peace process, Khaddam said: Syria thinks that the Soviet Union should be given its share in the process of making peace. The Soviet Union is a permanent member of the Security Council and has its responsibilities in this context. I think that there is universal agreement about the need for Soviet participation in the peace process.

Regarding what is currently taking place in Africa, Khaddam said: We cannot say that there is Arab involvement in Africa; however, there is involvement by some Arab states as dictated by their political, social and economic conditions.

The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs then talked about the official visit he will today pay to the FRG and said: This visit is in response to an invitation from Mr Genscher [minister of foreign affairs] and is within the framework of the contacts which are taking place between the two countries. He added: There is no doubt that the circumstances under which this visit will take place are important and sensitive, not only regarding the international situation, but the situation in th Middle East region as well. I expect there will be a better understanding by the FRG state leaders of the situation in our region.

Regarding relations between Syria and the FRG, Khaddam said: The economic relations between the two countries are growing and developing in a positive manner. There are no particular problems hampering the continuation of this development.

INA REPORTS CLANDESTINE SYRIAN BA'TH PARTY STATEMENT

JN061941Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 6 June--The Provisional Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria has stated that the differences between the two parties--Anwar as-Sadat and Hafiz al-Asad--as to the capitulationist settlement are differences over the means and not the principle of reconciliation with the Zionist enemy.

In a statement distributed today in the Syrian districts on the occasion of the anniversary of the defeat of 5 June 1967, the command said that the Damascus regime is directly responsible for the defeat because its president, Hafiz al-Asad, was the minister of defense and the commander of the Syrian Air Force at the time. Al-Asad is very famous for his communique surrendering the town of Qunaytirah before it fell into Zionist hands.

AL-BATH COMMENTS ON NATO INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

JN070736Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Jun 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the NATO onslaught in Africa. It says that in order to reassure European agents and to protect their interests, the NATO French-Belgian landing took place in Shaba. For the same reason, the French have intervened in the Sahara and Chad, and NATO has intervened diplomaticly in other seemingly unstable areas.

These interventions and possible interventions in other areas go back in African history to the era of direct colonization. Such action is not in harmony with the realities of this age, let alone having implications for European societies. These implications produced campaigns of denunciation by the masses in France and Belgium, who fear becoming embroiled in an endless quagmire.

The NATO countries found a solution, namely, to establish an African force as a repressive tool against the African liberation movements. This force would make moves under NATO instructions and capabilities. The NATO powers would provide airlifts and send destructive weapons to the Africans. Naturally, supplies for these repressive operations will be financed by the countries who contribute to the costs of resisting communism.

What is really regrettable is that certain Arab countries got involved in this new version of the old NATO ploy, in spite of the fact that their African role was defined by the resolutions of the first Arab-African summit conference. This role provides for contributing to the building of a developed and independent Africa. The Arab role of these countries is specifically to confront the Zionist enemy, which is advancing larger NATO plans in the Arab land.

ALGERIA

LIBYA'S AL-QADHDHAFI LEAVES FOR HOME 6 JUNE

LD061446Y Algiers APS in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Annaba, 6 June, APS--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, left Mellaha Airport at Annaba at noon today for home after a visit to Algeria that lasted several days. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was seen off at Annaba airport by President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution, who was accompanied by members of his entourage.

On his part, Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the General Secretariat of the Libyan General People's Congress, left Annaba for Tunis by road as a special emissary to President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia.

FLN DELEGATION VISITS USSR

LD061029Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1 Jun 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Moscow, APS--An Algerian delegation headed by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, chairman of the party's information committee and member of the AAPSO presidency, has visited the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

The National Liberation Front [FLN] delegation visited Baku, where it was received by Geydar Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee.

In Moscow, the visitors had meetings and talks at the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

Mr Messaadia told a NOVOSTI press agency correspondent that "our visit to the USSR has been very important and useful. Regular contacts between advocates of Afro-Asian solidarity play a positive role by helping to increase cohesion and by coordinating the efforts of the various elements in the movement. This is particularly pertinent at the moment since the world is now witnessing new acts of insolent interference by imperialists in the affairs of young sovereign states," Mohamed Cherif Messaadia added. He then went on to say:

"The neocolonialists rely on local reactionary elements, as the events in Zaire, for example, have shown, in an effort to maintain their shaky positions and provide the conditions for continuing to exploit the resources of Afro-Asian countries. But the peoples' desire for social and economic progress, real liberation and equal rights in international affairs cannot be opposed. As was reaffirmed during the Algerian-Soviet talks in Moscow, Afro-Asian solidarity can make a major contribution to the realization of these noble objectives in the future," Mr Messaadia concluded.

LIBYA

JANA REPORTS LIBYAN-ALGERIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

LD062212Y Tripoli JANA in English 1823 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 6 June, JANA--The following joint communique was issued in Tripoli and Algiers today at the conclusion of an official visit by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Algeria.

Within the framework of regular meetings between the two political leaderships, and out of the strategic alliance of the two revolutions, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, paid a visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria during the period 30th May to 6th June 1978.

On the Libyan side the talks were attended by the brothers Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress; Jadallah 'Azzuz at-Talhi, industry secretary; Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary; and Musa Ahmad Abu Zuraywah, planning secretary.

From the Algerian side the following were present: Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, member of the Revolutionary Council and executive official of the party organ; Mohammed Benahmed Abdelghani, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of the interior; Ahmed Draia, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of transport; Mohamed Tayebi Larbi, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; and Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister counselor to the president.

In this meeting experiences of the two sisterly countries regarding socialist application and popular democracy were reviewed with a view to mutual enrichment and deepening of their revolutionary values. The different aspects of bilateral cooperation in various fields and the ways of increasing and developing them were also considered. It was agreed to take the necessary steps to strengthen them to meet the aspirations of the two peoples to realize prosperity, self-sufficiency and unity.

The two delegations considered the situation in the Arab homeland and affirmed their national commitment to the resolutions of the Tripoli and Algiers conferences of steadfastness and confrontation, and their condemnation of the policy of capitulation and subservience to Zionism and imperialism. The two sides affirm their complete rejection of any Arab meeting under the policy of capitulation and abandonment of the nationalist and patriotic rights, because Arab solidarity must be against and not with the enemy.

The two sides declare their absolute support for, and pledge their assistance to, the Palestinian revolution and declare their resolute stand against the schemes aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and assignment of the national rights of the Palestinian people and their right to complete liberation of their soil, self-determination and the return to their usurped land.

The two sides hail the steadfastness of Syria and the Palestinian revolution, and who are standing firmly and bravely at the front line of the national struggle against Zionism and imperialism, as an impregnable fortress in the face of the liquidationist schemes.

The two sides condemn the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and condemn the isolationist forces which have made themselves allies of Zionism, and greet the Lebanese Arab people, who sacrificed, without hesitation, for the Arab struggle.

The two sides believe that the role of the UN forces must be limited to guarantee the withdrawal of the Zionist invasion forces from southern Lebanon.

The two sides hail the steadfastness of the Egyptian people and their patriotic and progressive forces in facing pressure, repression, terror and starvation. The two sides call on the patriotic and progressive forces in the Arab nation to stand by the Egyptian people in their ordeal.

On the other hand, the two sides considered the situation in Africa and the savage imperialist onslaught on the African Continent and express their belief that the African peoples possess the capability to confront this onslaught, and that resolution of African problems must be accomplished by Africans themselves, without any foreign intervention, out of their belief that Africa has no pact but with itself and that the true and necessary alliance is that of the progressive forces in the continent against imperialism and its accomplices.

The two sides affirm rejection of the pacts being set up by the neocolonialist forces in order to bring back their [passage indistinct] the military intervention of neocolonialism in the Western Sahara, Shaba Province and Chad, and their determination to resolutely withstand this intervention. The policy of using paratroopers and airplanes is nothing but a modern version of the antiquated gunboat diplomacy which history has judged to be futile, as it has judged that malice will always rebound on the malicious and that peoples cannot be fooled by the imperialist justifications which are used to loot the wealth of peoples and to trample on their humanity. The pretexts of protecting nationals, interests and the implementation of agreements imposed by the occupiers are nothing but a vain imperialist tactic which has been proved futile.

In this connection the two sides declare their support for and pledge their assistance to the African liberation movements in their struggle for liberation and freedom from imperialist control and the racist regimes.

The complete liberation of the African Continent will be a decisive factor in establishing the new world economic order. The two sides affirm the right of the developing peoples to control their resources and national wealth and demand a reassessment of the basis of the international economy in order to eliminate all types of economic and social oppression and exploitation between the developing countries and the developed ones.

The two sides reaffirm their adherence to the principles of nonalignment, as they are a positive and decisive factor in the international struggle for the victory of the peoples and for the establishment of international peace and security.

The two sides considered the situation in the Mediterranean and agree on the necessity of removing all factors of tension caused by the foreign presence in this sea, in order to transform it into a lake of peace and cooperation to serve the peoples of the region.

The two sides express their satisfaction with the positive results achieved by this visit, and agree to continue contacts at all levels.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the secretary general of the General People's Congress, expressed his thanks for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded to him by President Houari Boumediene, the National Liberation Front and the government and people of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

PFLP-GC LEADER MAKES STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL

LD062136Y Tripoli JANA in English 1902 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, June 6, JANA--The secretary general of the (PLFP-GC), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [General Command], Mr Ahmad Jibril, yesterday arrived in Tripoli on a few days visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Mr Jibril was received at Tripoli International Airport by a number of officials of the Arab Liaison Office at the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to the JANA correspondent, Mr Jibril said that his visit came at a time when the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary attacks on the Arab homeland were being stepped up and the people of the Arab east were exposed to particularly fierce military attacks led by the Zionist enemy.

The secretary general of the (PLFP-GC) referred to colonial intervention in the African Continent, saying that the imperialist forces were trying by all means possible to return to their old policies--direct intervention among the African peoples in the western desert, in Chad and the Shaba Province.

Mr Jibril affirmed that the Arab homeland and its national and progressive forces had no other alternative except a real and positive confrontation, particularly after the enemy's plots against the Arab and African countries were exposed.

Mr Jibril also called for the setting up of an Arab policy (?of) action supported by the world's progressive forces to draw up plans to confront the enemy. He referred to the al-Fatah Revolution, the Palestinian resistance and the countries of the steadfastness front who are assigned with the task of foiling the enemy's plots.

BULGARIAN DEPUTY CHAIRMAN HOLDS TALKS WITH JABIR

LD061640Y Tripoli JANA in English 1533 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, June 6, JANA--Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, received at his office this morning Mr Andrey Lukanov, the Bulgarian [Council of Ministers] deputy chairman. Ways and means of strengthening cooperation between the two brotherly countries were discussed.

Meets With Municipalities Secretary

LD061646Y Tripoli JANA in English 1542 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, June 6, JANA--Mr Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, the municipalities secretary, received this morning the Bulgarian deputy chairman, Mr Andrey Lukanov, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by the under-secretary of municipalities and the head of the construction and public works corporation.

The meeting dealt with the aspects of cooperation between the Bulgarian authorities and the municipalities sector, particularly the tenders presented by Bulgaria for refrigeration and shopping centres in a number of municipalities.

Agreement was reached on a visit by a Bulgarian technical delegation to the Jamahiriyah to obtain the necessary data for plans and studies of complete projects of public utilities in more than 30 cities, including the setting up of a joint company for drilling drinking water wells. Instructions were given to the authorities concerned to investigate the details of the project.

SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON VISIT

LD060718Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 5 Jun 78 LD

[Text] The Sri Lanka foreign minister arrived in Tripoli on 5 June on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

TUNISIA

L'ACTION EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON WESTERN ACTIVITY IN AFRICA

LD051345Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 28 May 78 p 1 LD

[Abdelhay Sghaier editorial]

[Text] The African problem was a major subject for discussion during the recent talks between President Jimmy Carter and Mr Giscard d'Estaing. There were probably urgent and even dramatic consultations between the two heads of state on the recent development in Zaire.

Although France's military commitment i ...nba was limited, it demonstrated that Paris is concerned that "the right of every state to security" is respected. The example of Africa, which has become the object of fierce greed and the scene of serious conflicts, looks as though it is rousing the West from its indifference. Destabilization on our continent would pose a serious threat not only to the security and survival of African states. Europe itself, which is flanked on the south by the Mediterranean and Africa, would be caught in the trap and strangled. For the United States, France and other Western countries the African game is a particularly close one since the foreign interventions, the established situation and subversive attempts--backed by significant means--leave only a narrow margin of maneuver for any state on the continent anxious to insure its security.

In the face of growing greed, the weakness of many African states merely increases the risks to their future. The establishment of a joint defense system could be very helpful, especially if each state took a serious part in it. But if Africans are responsible for defending Africa, we must admit that their security demands the expulsion of foreign forces which threaten their stability and independence. Aid from friendly powers can only supplement this effort, not replace it.

Thus Paris and Washington's concern over recent developments in Africa--which is evident from the joint communique--is to result in joint action. The two heads of state have deemed it necessary to undertake this action to promote security and development on this continent. In the absence of precise indications as to the extent of this action, we are justified in thinking that Washington and Paris are planning to act more firmly than in the past. What we need to know now is whether other Western states are going to join in this action.

After the Franco-African summit in Paris last week, the agreement between France and the United States on joint action in Africa represents a new factor which could, in the fairly short term, transform the conditions governing military cooperation between Western countries and many African countries. This is also sure to have definite repercussions on East-West relations, since Africa has become a major stake and a source of discord for both camps.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO OFFICIAL SCORES FRENCH, SPANISH ROLES IN SAHARA

LD020949Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 May 78 p 6 LD

[Text] Algiers, APS--In an interview with SAHARA LIBRE magainze, Mr Bachir Sayed el-Ouali, assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO Front and brother of missing hero El Ouali Mustapha Sayed, criticizes France's military intervention against the Saharan fighters and that country's interference in Zaire and Chad.

Mr Bachir Sayed el-Ouali, who has just been on a Latin American trip to Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Panama, where he was received by President Torrijos, warns "international and particularly French public opinion of the dangerous implications of direct interventions ...against small peoples" who are struggling for their liberation.

"We have alerted international and particularly French opinion to the gravity of the consequences stemming from the French intervention and from a possible internationalization of the conflict, for which those who prevented by force the decolonization of our country are responsible," the POLISARIO Front official stressed.

Mr Bachir Sayed el-Ouali, who went on to recall that France is a member of the Security Council and that it voted for all the resolutions which recognized and stipulated the Saharan people's right to self-determination, believes that that country is "more responsible than anyone" for peace and stability in the Mediterranean.

According to Mr el-Ouali, "Instead of fueling the flames of this conflict, France can help settle it." "It seems," he added, "that today the French Government has chosen the path of escalation, defying all international legality and flouting the principles of the charters of international organizations." The Saharan official also stressed that France seems determined to "deploy every military means for the implementation of an imperialist plan in Africa and the Arab world, while displaying virtually no concern for the sentiments of the Arab and African people or for the interests of the French people themselves.

"The struggle the Saharan people are waging under the leadership of the POLISARIO Front and the nationalist regimes of Algeria, Libya, Angola and Mozambique are at the center of this plan's concerns," the Saharan official stressed, pointing out that "Morocco, the Canaries, Senegal and Chad are the bases for aggression directed essentially against our people, Algeria, Libya and other peoples of the continent." "For France and its allies, it is a question of establishing a 'security cordon' and an 'unbreakable stranglehold' around our countries," he added.

Asked about the Spanish-Moroccan fishing agreement, Mr Bachir Sayed el-Ouali first recalled that the fishermen captured recently by the Saharan fighters were plundering the wealth of the Saharan people. He stated that seven of the eight fishermen taken prisoner by the Saharan People's Liberation Army are from the Canaries. "It is perhaps for this reason that the Spanish Government has displayed virtually no concern for their fate," he added, before asserting that the prisoners are all "healthy and safe and are sharing the life of the Saharan people."

Mr Sayed el-Ouali, who believes that the aim of this plan is to "reintroduce and consolidate neocolonialism throughout so-called 'French-speaking' Africa and in the western part of the Arab world," points out that in reality there is a desire to "succeed in eliminating the national liberation movements and to contain, encircle and then cruelly undermine the regimes which are aiding these movements."

According to the Saharan official, "this plan will reach its culmination when we are powerless witnesses as regional, international or continental organizations, particularly the OAU, successively disintegrate." "To divide and weaken the African Continent and to sabotage Afro-Arab solidarity--that is the objective which the 'French' Government is setting itself today," Mr Sayed el-Ouali added.

After recalling Spain's heavy responsibility on the question of Western Sahara, Mr Bachir Sayed el-Ouali stressed that by recently signing a fishing agreement--a serious attack on the sovereignty of the Saharan people--Spain is attempting to "revive the sinister tripartite agreement of Madrid, which has been worn down by the Saharan fighters on the field of battle."

The Saharan official went on to reveal that "Spain is collaborating with the Moroccan forces to defend the region of Bu Craa," and that it is "mining the coasts of Cabo Bojador, Dakhla, Rgueiba, En Nkhila and Dkheila" off the coasts of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. "Spain," he added, "is in the process of making the Canaries one of the most formidable bases for aggression against us and against Africa."

Recalling that in the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic "there is a people who are fighting for their inalienable and immutable right to national sovereignty over their entire country, including the territorial waters," the Saharan official asserted that the "Saharan people are determined to preserve and defend this right."

Finally, in connection with his Latin American trip, Mr Bachir Sayed el-Ouali indicated that in Panama he was received by President Omar Torrijos, who assured him of his country's support for the Saharan people's just struggle.

He also stated that in Jamaica he talked with Jamaican Foreign Minister Patterson. During this talk, he stated, the Jamaican officials announced the "indestructible solidarity of the Jamaican Government and people with the Saharan people's struggle."

"They also condemned extremely vigorously the French intervention and pledged to defend the Saharan cause everywhere and under any circumstances and at the level of all international forums," he went on to say.

POLISARIO CLAIMS 72 MOROCCANS KILLED IN 2 JUNE BATTLE

LD061314Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Summary] Despite French imperialist support and open intervention at the side of the Rabat and Nouakchott regimes, the Saharan people are stepping up their armed struggle and inflicting heavy losses on the invaders. A communique released by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry on this week's military operations by the Saharan liberation army indicates that last Friday, 2 June, the Saharan revolutionaries launched a successful attack on the northern front against the monarchist forces, who suffered 72 dead, including a deputy unit commander called Naji [name indistinct]. More than 50 troops were injured. The Saharan insurgents captured four jeeps, seven Mercedes trucks, two 106-mm guns, four 81- and 120-mm guns and large quantities of small arms.

In an attack against Mauritanian troops on the southern front, the Saharan army killed 18 enemy soldiers, including a noncommissioned officer, wounded more than 23 others and captured 3. Quantities of military hardware were captured, including two heavy machineguns, three vehicles, a cannon, small arms and 10 boxes of ammunition.

PERES TALKS TO POST ON PEACE ISSUE, PARTY CHALLENGES

TA070700Y Jerusalem POST in English 7 Jun 78 p 10 TA

[By Mark Segal]

[Text] Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres does not exclude the possibility of a realignment of political forces within the present government, given the deteriorating situation at home and on the international front under the Likud's leadership.

Speaking to the Jerusalem POST editorial staff earlier this week, Peres stressed that, for the Labour Party, the central issue facing the nation now and in the immediate future is the concrete possibility of attaining peace with Egypt. That is the overriding issue that must overshadow everything else in the party's strategy and calculations, he said.

Queries on his party's reaction to Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman's call for a "national peace government," Peres said: "If a government arose based on a real peace programme, we would certainly consider joining." But the present one was far from such a target.

The former Labour governments had reached two interim agreements with Egypt, and if Labour had been in power now, Peres said, "we could have made a third, an even more comprehensive one, too, without all that theatricality."

Labour's position, unlike that of the Likud, would lead to peace with Egypt, Peres declared, holding that the Egyptian position as enunciated by the U.S. "was not incompatible with Labour's." He noted that the Americans do not insist on a total return to the 1967 lines: They see resolution 242 as sufficing, because it contains the element of withdrawal; they do not exclude an IDF presence in the West Bank after five years of autonomy, and they do rule out a Palestinian state. Peres is anxious because he is not sure whether time is working entirely in Israel's favour. Also, As-Sadat's position is being enhanced by Israel's mistakes.

Peres recalled his meeting last year with As-Sadat in Salzburg, when the Egyptian president differentiated between Sinai and the West Bank. He understood Israel's concern for its security in the West Bank, which--unlike Sinai--has no internationally recognized border. The leader of the opposition does not believe that As-Sadat insists on the "not one inch line; rather he had accepted Resolution 242.

Peres also does not believe that any agreement can be obtained with Jordan over the West Bank in one stage. He favours forming a federation, with "the geographic stage" coming as the second phase. "If the government insists on retaining Israeli sovereignty after the five years of its autonomy scheme have elapsed, no interim agreement can be achieved," he declared.

The Labour leader took pains to emphasize that his party's proposal for peace through territorial compromise was based on the principle of concessions as a means rather than as an end. Here he recalled how Ben-Gurion urged the implementation of the Biltmore programme in 1947, not because he wanted partition but because independence would thereby be attained.

The opposition leader regretted that contrary to Begin's festive promise on assuming office, the prime minister had not bothered to keep him informed on a regular basis about issues of national importance. During the last Labour government, Peres recalled, Rabin kept Begin as opposition leader constantly in the picture. Apart from one meeting with the prime minister, Peres has received no information at all, neither from Foriegn Minister Moshe Dayan. He relies on other sources for his information, he conceded.

The Likud government, says Peres, has made all the possible mistakes, especially with the Americans, not to mention disowning Resolution 242 and then backtracking, or the 15 phantom settlement points in Sinai while talks were underway with Egypt. Peres said somberly: "I fear for our country should the negotiating process with Egypt collapse."

Discussing Labour as the main opposition party, Peres dwelt on its relative recovery in such a short time after its defeat at the polls. He believed that the Likud's honeymoon was now over and "its real image" has come through in the past three months. "It's a far cry from its early days with euphoric talk of a small, authoritative, effective government without any leaks," Peres said.

All parties have to adjust to a changing attitude towards politics and the influence of the mass media on the electorate, Peres said. He asserted that the DMC's decision to join the Likud coalition had contributed to the general cynicism. The DMC performed a disservice to the nation and to itself by going in with the Likud. "With the DMC in the opposition, the government would not have been able to adopt such extremist stands on settlements, for example," said Peres.

Labour had not lost because of its political leadership but because there was one scandal after another. Peres mentioned as the decisive elements that brought Labour down the Asher Yadlin case and the loss of eight seats to the DMC.

Apart from the moral issues and the wave of strikes the public had emerged more hawkish than Labour was thought to be. In addition, many tradition-minded voters felt Labour was not behaving properly on religious matters, and was inclining to an anti-religious line. The fact that Labour women MK's were at the spearhead of abortion legislation made for difficulties in winning over such voters, he remarked.

Peres is against a strident opposition line, believing that a constant high pitch of criticism on all kinds of issues can be counter-productive. Indeed, he feels that "respectability and restraint" should be the watchwords of his party in opposition, and that this should help it to win the electorate's confidence again.

The Labour Party chairman admitted to having been influenced by a series of public opinion polls, one which showed that 60 percent of the public judge a government by its performance on religious matters.

What was especially significant was the 44 percent floating vote that had emerged from a recent poll indicating a decline in support for the government. He protested the misuse by government spokesmen of the poll to conceal the real measure of the public's disappointment. They had forgotten to mention that the 50 percent support of the Likud related to the 56 percent of the voters who had expressed support for any of the parties. Thus in fact the real percentage of backing for the Begin government was 28, Peres pointed out.

He does not accept the charge that Labour is being too much of a "loyal" opposition, but he prefers that his party not take a demagogic line, keeping the country's--rather than its own--interests in the forefront. Labour also has to bear in mind a recent poll showing that 50 percent of the public does not believe that the Arabs really want peace. "So we must take care not to be regarded as being more sensitive to Egyptian than to Israeli views."

Peres would like to follow the example of his mentor, David Ben-Gurion, in forging a coalition enjoying a majority around a central issue--which would be the attainment of peace with Egypt in the foreseeable future, he said. It would also reaffirm the party's credibility as a responsible political force.

Peres has not lost more of reviving Labour's traditional partnership with the National Religious Party, arguing that "the NRP is one thing when it's with the Likud, and another party altogether when it's with us."

He sees no reason for changing Labour's present leadership, nor would he countenance spending a year discussing the Alignement with MAPAM. Labour is now planning a new membership registration campaign, to be followed by internal elections, but it is now well on the road to recovery, which Peres considers a real achievement. Hayyim Bar-Lev MK will work with him as party secretary, and share the burden of rebuilding the party. Its most immediate task is to prepare for the elections to 200 local authorities.

Labour is now concentrating on winning back voters from the centre of the political spectrum, where it sustained its main losses in 1977. Four of its best writers are currently drafting anew the party's ideological programme, and it has set up a country-wide cadre of 2,000 hitherto politically uninvolved persons to do party work.

Peres said the party cannot afford to over-indulge itself in internal affairs, for there are only 1,000 days left to the next general elections, which in fact means only another 600 working days. So they have to go out to the urban neighbourhoods and to the new towns to win back the voters. However, the opposition leader does not give the impression that he expects the Likud government to survive the next 1,000 days.

JERUSALEM REACTS TO AS-SADAT'S ISMAILIA SPEECH

TA070718Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Jun 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] In a speech to the troops of the 2d Army in Ismailia by President as-Sadat last night, we heard for the first time an addendum to the statement, which has become well known since his visit to Jerusalem, that the October war will be the last war. The addendum is: Only with the return of all the Arab lands conquered in June 1967 and the full rights of the Palestinians.

In his speech to army personnel in Ismailia, President as-Sadat repeated his demands that all the land and rights of the Palestinians must be given back, and he again emphasized that there will be no separate peace between Israel and Egypt. President as-Sadat rejected the autonomy program for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip proposed by Israel, and said that the presence of Israel's military delegation in Cairo is proof of Egypt's good intentions on the issue of the momentum of peace.

Our political correspondent Shalom Qital comments on President as-Sadat's speech:

This morning senior circles in Jerusalem are reacting to Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's remarks by saying that they have nothing in them that can influence the determination of Israel's positions. But, the circles add, it is obvious that they represent an obstacle to advancing the peace moves. It is also being pointed out in Jerusalem that As-Sadat's threats contradict agreements made at various stages of the negotiations that the negotiations would be held without pressure and threats and here, despite this agreement, are the pressure, threats, and a reference to war. In particular, it is recalled that in October President as-Sadat said: "No more war." Now, 9 months later, he is repeating the same threats we were used to hearing before October.

We can sum up the Israeli reaction in this way: on the one hand, dissatisfaction, an obstacle to the advancing of the peace moves; but, on the other hand, a clear hint that these remarks will not influence the determination of Israel's positions. Anyone who remembers that the cabinet is at the peak of a political debate will know that these things are significant.

KNESSET COMMITTEE DISCUSSES U.S. QUESTIONS

TA061628Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 6 Jun 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee held a political discussion today with the participation of the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, Dr Me'ir Rosenne. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen had this to report: [begin recording]

The two questions that the United States has submitted to Israel can be summed up as follows: Is Israel now ready to discuss the permanent status of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza? If the answer is yes, by what mechanism does Israel propose to determine that status?

The questions were submitted by Dr Rosenne to the committee members in Hebrew translation, rather than in their original English version. He stressed that this was the translation of a version that had been submitted to Israel orally. No further clarifications were offered by the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser.

The report was followed by a 3-hour debate in which most of the committee members participated. According to initial reports, no new or original ideas were broached during the debate. [end recording]

GOVERNOR: NO CHANGE IN POLICY IN JUDAEA, SAMARIA

TA061752Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The commander of Judaea and Samaria says that there is no change in the policy of the military government toward the mayors of cities. Brigadier General Ben-Eli'ezer said this to correspondent Arye Guss. He said the intention is to examine practically the problems of the cities and to try to solve them. As for problems of security, the commander of Judaea and Samaria said he is prepared to react with vigor in any event. He noted that during his visits in the region he had received the impression that all the inhabitants, and particularly the mayors of the town, want to maintain peace and normal order and invest all their energy in developing the area.

The commander of Judaea and Samaria today visited the Ramallah municipality and met with Mayor Karim Khalaf. He responded affirmatively to most of the mayor's requests, among other things, the request to permit councilmen to visit prisoners in jails. Our correspondent says that in recent years this privilege has been withheld from a number of mayors known as PLO sympathizers.

The mayor of Ramallah praised the commander of the region for responding to his requests and said that new and better relations have been created.

WEST BANK MAYORS TO COOPERATE WITH ISRAEL

TA070637Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that a few days ago some of the mayors of towns in Judaea and Samaria met and discussed how to respond to the new policy of the military government on the issue of development. It was agreed to cooperate, since the development of the West Bank towns comes before anything else. Apparently they also decided to put out feelers in Amman in order to renew the broad aid given by the Jordanian Government to the municipalities, as before the elections 2 years ago.

NO MONEY FOR EQUALIZATION OF CONDITIONS IN TERRITORIES

TA070641Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Despite the cabinet decision to equalize services in the administered territories with those in Israel, there is no money for this in next year's budget for the military government. Therefore, officials say that the decision cannot be carried out in full. There was no increase in the military governor's budget for this year either.

TECHNICAL COLLEGES APPROVED FOR WEST BANK

TA070650Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The commander of Judaea and Samaria district, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, has in principle authorized Ramallah's program to establish a technical college in the town, but on condition that the college not be administered, from the professional aspect, by Bi'r Zayt College. Ben-Eli'ezer told the mayor, Karim Khalaf, that the college will be able to receive professional aid from the military government.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari points out that Hebron municipality is also due to open a technical college, and the ('Anajakh) College in Nabulus is also receiving funds for the establishment of an engineering faculty.

The military government has authorized the extension of the municipality's sphere of control, and promised to examine the request by Mayor Karim Khalaf to amend the law on municipalities to permit Ramallah municipality to collect participation funds from the inhabitants to repair the drainage system. Our correspondent says that other mayors have asked the military government to amend the law on municipalities so that they can impound the property of inhabitants who refuse to pay municipal taxes.

GUSH EMUNIM TO WAGE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIKUD GOVERNMENT

TA061951Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The secretariat of Gush Emunim informed the prime minister today that it would open a public campaign against the government on the subject of settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that in a letter sent to Mr Begin, Gush Emunim states that at the end of the first year of grace for the Likud cabinet Gush Emunim finds itself totally dissatisfied with the government's policy in the field of settlements; a policy, which, according to Gush Emunim has reached a deadlock.

W. BANK PAPER CONDEMNS CONFISCATION OF ARAB LANDS

JN040826Y Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 May 78 p 1 JN

[Editorial]

[Text] The Begin government repeatedly says that it has not and will not confiscate land from any Arab and that the land on which settlements are being built is government land whose ownership, after occupation, has reverted from the Jordan authorities to the Israeli military government.

We are not here to discuss Israel's right to confiscate government land, but to discuss very calmly the Israeli leaders' statements that they hold no confiscated land belonging to Arabs.

Arabs from An-Nabi Salih village took their case to the high court of justice and the court decided to stop all Israeli operations in the area until it established whether the village land is government or private.

This is not the first time Arabs have resorted to the Israeli courts. The responsibility of this court is not only to investigate the facts and issue verdicts, but also to implement them. However, the implementation is done by the Israeli Government and the military authorities in the occupied areas.

While the Israeli officials, from Prime Minister Begin to the lowest official in the government, assert that they have not and will not confiscate any Arab land, we in the occupied areas witness daily actual measures being taken to carve up more Arab land. The daily papers are full of reports, statements and analyses on the building of settlements and the confiscation of occupied land.

SABOTAGE INCREASING IN AREAS POPULATED BY JEWS

TA041411Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 4 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpts] Last year sabotage activities tripled in Israel, after the terrorist organization apparently decided to transfer their main activity to areas this side of the green line.

An analysis of their activities last year shows that on the whole the terrorists did not manage more sabotage than the previous year. The increase is altogether inconsiderable but while activities were formerly concentrated mainly in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, efforts are now directed at areas populated by Jews.

Another prominent fact, which must cause the security authorities concern, is the increase of sabotage material that is in the possession of terrorists in the territories. Whereas in the not so distant past the terrorists were short of explosives, fuses and other material, this is no longer the case. Until quite recently the terrorists were forced to prepare makeshift and primitive devices to use in their sabotage. Now they seem to have sabotage material and other standard equipment from depots of Arab armies or similar sources.

The equipment can be introduced into Israel in various ways: through the land boundaries, via the Dead Sea, across the Jordan bridges, and by smuggling through airports and sea ports. It is not exactly clear how the terrorists smuggle in the main components of that equipment. In one instance a large shipment of sabotage material was seized in Haifa harbor.

NABULUS POLICE DISCOVER LARGE ARMS CACHE

TA051216Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Jun 78 p 16 TA

[By Yosef Walter]

[Excerpts] The alertness of four police sergeants from the Nabulus police last week led to the exposure of two hostile squads in the area and to the discovery of a large arms cache, which included automatic weapons and ammunition.

About two weeks ago information reached the four investigators on arms dealing in the Nabulus area. They began a vigorous investigation that led them to several people living in the Nabulus area who had purchased automatic weapons. Later 13 people were arrested and a large cache of weapons and ammunition was discovered, which included submachine guns, rifles and pistols.

A special team is investigating the case in order to discover the origin of the arms and how they were distributed in the Nabulus area. It is feared that these arms were intended for sabotage activities in the area and in Israel and were marketed by hostile elements linked with terrorist organizations.

AUTHORITIES WARN INTERNAL TERROR MAY INCREASE

TA070830Y Jerusalem POST in English 7 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The authorities are bracing themselves for a spate of internal terror, the Jerusalem POST has learned. The public is advised to prepare itself for this and for the possibility of greater civilian casualties with the increased sophistication of terrorists' weapons--those manufactured locally and those smuggled into the country.

It is also learned that more residents of the territories have been recruited for terrorist activity because of the current political climate. It was moreover becoming more difficult to check on these activities, since the terrorists are now operating in small and independent groups, one unaware of the activities of the other, and not through a central organization as previously.

HA'AREZ: IF DAYAN RESIGNS DMC WILL FOLLOW

TA061327Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is in a key position and the Likud coalition depends on him. This is the recent assessment of various circles in the coalition who believe that if Dayan resigns from the government, against the background of possible differences of opinion with the prime minister about the future of Judaea and Samaria, this would bring about the DMC's resignation from the government with the result that the coalition would lose its parliamentary basis creating new political deployments.

According to these assessments, the DMC would not be able to remain in the government were Dayan to resign, because his resignation would strengthen those circles in the DMC who are already urging departure. Thus the coalition majority would be reduced to 62 MKs of the Likud, MAFDAL and Agudat Yisra'el while it is known that at least three Knesset members: Ge'ula Kohen, Moshe Shamir and Rabbi Hayyim Druckman opposed Begin's peace plan in the recent Knesset vote. MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir abstained in the vote while Knesset Speaker MK Yizhaq Shamir was absent.

The HA'AREZ correspondent points out that even if some DMC Knesset members remain in the government at the expense of a split within their party they will not be able to insure a parliamentary majority for the government.

It has been learned also that a few days ago, at a meeting of leaders of the Moshav Movement at his house the foreign minister said: "I have no complaints against the man (Begin); he has walked a much longer road in the peace negotiations than I have." At the same meeting, Dayan also clarified that he has no differences with the prime minister.

Coalition circles maintain that the question of the foreign minister's continued membership in the government will be decided in the next few days when the political deliberations in the cabinet are concluded.

AFP REPORTS ON 6 JUNE GENERAL STRIKE IN IRAN

TA062013Y Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 6 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Teheran, June 6 (AFP)--The general strike call by the Iranian political and religious opposition yesterday was observed more in the provinces than in the capital itself, it appeared today. Witnesses said that the holy city of Qom, home of the tough faction of the religious hierarchy south of Teheran, looked lifeless yesterday with all stores closed, streets deserted and some 20 heavy tanks on its periphery.

Opposition sources said the bazaar in Isfahan stayed shut all day, as did most of the shops in Tabriz, the nation's second largest city. The strike was also largely observed in Ahwaz in the southwest, Machah in the east and other towns, the same sources said.

A government spokesman today described the mild effect of the strike on Teheran as a victory for the shah, saying "the people refused to follow the extremists and placed their confidence in the government." But sources in the non-communist political opposition said they were "satisfied" with the strike which was called to mark the 15th anniversary of anti-government riots in Teheran in which hundreds of people died. Triumphant pro-government editorials in the Iranian press today did not reflect the whole truth, they added.

Opposition sources said they did not regard today's announcement of the departure of SAVAK (political police) chief, General Ne'matollah Nassiri, as particularly significant. Gen Nassiri was named Iranian ambassador to Pakistan.

The Iranian political opposition is preparing a program of militant activities for coming weeks. In a first phase, it plans to call a boycott of Iranian newspapers in the Persian language if it does not obtain the authorization it has requested to publish its own newspaper.

Next, leaders of the religious and political opposition are preparing for a new day of protest on June 19, marking four anniversaries: the birth of Imam Ali (son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad and prophet of the Shia Moslems), the 40th day since the last riots in Qom, the death in London last year of leading opposition figure Dr Chariati, and the beginning of the battle of former premier Muhammad Musaddiq in 1951 against the British Petroleum Company to nationalise the oil inudstry.

SAVAK CHIEF APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN

LD061436Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 6 Jun 78 LD

[Text] The ministry of foreign affairs announces that on the orders of his imperial majesty the shah, General Nassiri [who had been head of SAVAK since 1965] has been appointed as the shah's ambassador to Pakistan.

NEW SAVAK CHIEF, GEN MOQADDAM, INTRODUCED TO SHAH

LD070928Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 7 Jun 78 LD

[Text] The shah received Mr Jamshid Amuzegar, the prime minister, at Niavaran Palace this morning. At this audience, Mr Amuzagar introduced Lt Gen Naser Moqaddam to the shah as deputy prime minister and [new] head of the National Intelligence and Security Organization [SAVAK].

AFGHANISTAN

AFGHAN OFFICIAL FORESEES CLOSE RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

JN061114Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Kabul, 6 June--INA correspondent Fu'ad 'Abdallah's dispatch--Afghan Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Wakil has stated that his country looks forward to establishing very close party and official relations with Iraq.

In a statement to INA's Kabul correspondent, the Foreign Ministry under secretary said that the Afghan people and the Democratic People's Party admire the bold process of transformation led by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party which is creating a new society in Iraq.

The Afghan official stressed the need for holding contacts between the Ba'th Party and the Democratic People's Party. He said these contacts would contribute to promoting cooperation in the various spheres.

Speaking about the situation in Afghanistan, Al-Wakil said that the revolution enjoys the confidence and support of the people, is not afraid of its enemies and has the vision to face matters. He added that the top priority of the April revolution is to wipe out ignorance and poverty.

FINANCE MINISTER ADDRESSES MINISTRY STAFF

LD061720Y Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 5 Jun 78 LD

[Summary] The Finance Ministry staff held a function at the Public Health Institute in appreciation of the revolution this afternoon. The meeting opened with a recitation from the Koran. Later, Finance Minister Abdolkarim Misaq addressed the meeting and said that it is a great source of pleasure that the people of Afghanistan have obtained their just rights from the former despotic rulers. Misaq added: "Friends and compatriots, now all the brave and valiant people of Afghanistan have the duty of working to bring about the realization of the aims of the revolution. Of course, we can attain these aims only when we all come together under the leadership of the Democratic People's Party [DPP] and implement its high and progressive objectives. Only then can we build a prosperous, free and blossoming Afghanistan over the ruins that we have inherited from our former oppressors."

Misaq added that under the DPP leadership there is no place for bribery, smuggling or exploitation in this country, and we will take measures to insure that the people no longer suffer from these evils. "While referring to the rights of the various nationalities in the country, to the individual and collective liberties and the freedom of religion and of traditional values, the finance minister said: We will resist any one who violates the freedom of our people under the veil of religion and national traditions--I say openly that we will (?resist) such prejudices."

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Misaq's statement was accompanied by applause from the audience; later a number of Finance Ministry staff members also gave speeches.

POSSIBLE OPPOSITION 'NOT BEING EXCLUDED' BY KABUL

LD051156Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0114 GMT 5 Jun 78 LD

["Following the Change in Afghanistan and the Introduction of Military-Revolutionary Courts, Military and Civil People Accused of Acting Against the Interests of the Revolution Are To Answer Before All Courts"--TANJUG headline]

[Text] Kabul--It is not a case of a "purge" but of the need to defend the revolution. This is how a fellow journalist explains the latest decision here to form military-revolutionary courts which, in the next few days, will begin trying all civil and military people who are accused of acting against the people and the state and against the interests of the revolution. There are not many facts available regarding the mood or opposition in this large, backward country which, as President Nur Mohammad Taraki says, "is seeking its own, Afghan path of democratic transformation."

It is difficult to say today whether these new courts will have a lot of work to do. Naturally, diverse news and rumors are going around Kabul. According to some, the number of those arrested is very large, while others say this is not the case. Whoever has not worked against the revolution and national interests has nothing to fear. For foreign journalists, the linguistic barrier as well as the attitude of the new authorities make it difficult to obtain accurate information. For this reason, many endeavor to create a picture of circumstances in the country on the basis of what they see themselves. Life in the city and in the interior is on the whole normal, with supplies proceeding as before. Peace and order have been insured everywhere.

The broad campaign to reduce the prices of foodstuffs, together with the formation of these military-revolutionary courts does, however, suggest that the possibility of opposition is not being excluded. Over the past few days, the papers here have been filled with items providing the names of merchants who have "voluntarily lowered their prices." At improvised meetings, activists in the ruling Democratic People's Party urge this kind of "patriotic attitude" on the part of merchants.

Even foreign journalists have seen the benefit of this campaign "against exploitative high prices." Falling in line with the wave of the "new mood," the owner of the hotel which only foreigners stay in reduced his prices by 10 percent. "No one asked this of me," he said. "But times have changed."

One month after the revolutionary changes the new national government, with the support of the military, is still fighting for the support of the masses. Probably not so much because of any opposition--there is no organized opposition at all--as because of the difficult heritage of undeveloped social relations and backwardness.

The statistics highlight this: With its 16 million inhabitants, Afghanistan today has only 847 doctors and 792 engineers. Primary school is attended by only one child in seven, secondary school by one child in 52 and only one in almost 50,000 gets as far as college. For this reason, more than 90 percent of the population is illiterate. In the whole country there are only 47 hospitals and only one maternity home. There is no hunger, but the want and poverty are immeasurable. Last year's state budget, together with the development fund, amounted to about $600 million--in other words, three-quarters of a cent a day for every person.

The fight for people has, therefore, begun with a fight for schools. Even before the action taken in the formation of military-revolutionary courts and the prohibition on speculation, a campaign was aimed at opening new schools. The affluent give money, the poorer give bricks. Many have given land, lumber and benches. The press also publishes the names of those who have presented pencils. It is only now that education has become general and compulsory for all in Afghanistan. Today less than 10 percent of the population can read and write, and in the whole country there is only one university with just over 8,000 students. Above all, Afghanistan needs people. The military-revolutionary courts will have to take that into account.

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN SECRETARY HUSSAIN LEAVES FOR RANGOON 6 JUNE

BK061258Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Tabarak Hussain, left Dacca for Rangoon this morning at the head of a nine-member Bangladesh delegation. The delegation will have talks with the Burmese authorities for a just and speedy solution of the problem of ethnic minority pushed into Bangladesh from Burma.

The foreign secretary told newsmen at the airport that he will discuss the whole range of the issue. He said Bangladesh has taken a very reasonable and logical stand to solve the problem through bilateral negotiations. He hoped that the other side will respond to them to bring an amicable solution of the problem. He said the influx of the Burmese minority nationals into Bangladesh is still continuing and the figure stood at 176,000 on the 3d of this month.

The other members of the delegation include the director general of the Bangladesh Rifles, the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the commissioner of Chittagong Division.

ZIA PROMISES PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER

BK060935Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 6 Jun 78 BK

[Text] President Zia has said the June 3 election in Bangladesh has demonstrated the people's political maturity and consciousness. Talking informally to newsmen in Dacca yesterday, the president referred to the tremendous response which had been witnessed during the polling. He said the election has also demonstrated the people's abiding interest in the country's democratic process. The president said he was happy to see that a system is emerging in which our great people are determined to achieve peace, stability and democracy.

Answering a question, President Zia said the parliamentary election will be held in December as scheduled.

About the lifting of martial law, he said: We are gradually lifting it. He, however, pointed out that it was the first time under martial law in any country that armed forces had not been used in conducting elections. The entire operation was run by civilian machinery.

Referring to the future economic program, President Zia said it will primarily be based on the 19-point program to accelerate rural development. He said he also proposes to utilize the country's manpower in productive efforts. Proper utilization of land will also be insured. Besides, we are going in in a big way for setting up more cottage industries, thus creating further avenues for employment.

Asked if he contemplated a bigger flow of foreign assistance, President Zia said it is true that the country wants to reduce dependence on foreign aid. Nevertheless, we will allow friendly and brotherly countries to give us a push so that we can achieve this objective of economic development at a faster pace. He said it is in fact the duty of the industrialized and richer nations to help us.

Answering yet another question, President Zia hoped that Burma will take back its nationals who have temporarily sheltered in camps in Bangladesh. In this context he referred to the scheduled visit of a Bangladesh delegation led by the foreign secretary to Burma today and hoped that the outcome of the visit will be satisfactory and will (?find) a positive solution.

In reply to a question, President Zia said he does not foresee any change in the country's foreign policy, which aims at improving relations with all countries.

INDIA

DESAI, REDDY CONGRATULATE BANGLADESH'S ZIA ON ELECTION

BKD61057Y Delhi ISI in English 0929 GMT 6 Jun 78 BK

[Text] President Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Morarji Desai have felicitated General Ziaur Rahman on his election as president of Bangladesh, reports PTI.

In his message Desai said that it is his sincere hope that the process that they had started of putting the relations between the two countries on a firmer basis free from suspicion and misapprehension "will be imparted further momentum during the coming months and years and new initiatives would be taken for cementing the bonds of cooperation between the two countries."

Sending his cordial wishes for President Ziaur Rahman's personal health and happiness and for the prosperity and progress of the people of Bangladesh, Sanjiva Reddy sincerely hoped that "there will be further consolidation and strengthening of the relations between our two countries".

DESAI CONCERNED OVER SUPERPOWER PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

BK0709 35Y Delhi ISI in English 0902 GMT 7 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Morarji Desai on June 6 expressed his concern over the presence of superpowers in the Indian Ocean as well as their presence all over the world, reports PTI.

Desai, who was replying to questions at a luncheon given in his honour by the Foreign Press Association and the Commonwealth Diplomatic Writers Association, said his concern did not mean that he could order anybody. "I can only plead with them to see that the world becomes one human family and that is what we are trying."

Replying to a question on southern Africa, Desai said he was in close touch with the British prime minister in this regard.

The internal settlement in Rhodesia was no settlement at all and he wanted to see that democracy was restored and majority rule prevailed not only in Rhodesia but also in Namibia and South Africa. "We are working for it, but we cannot work in a public manner."

A "GUARDIAN" correspondent found himself stumped when the prime minister asked him why his paper had reported that he might be cancelling his foreign tour.

After replying to the correspondent's question on southern Africa, Desai said to him: "Can I ask you a question? Why did your paper report I am not coming here? (to Britain)." Taken by surprise the correspondent said he was not aware of any such report.

Desai quipped: "What the right hand does the left hand does not know. I hope it is not repeated."

The "GUARDIAN" had carried a report from its New Delhi correspondent that Desai might call off his visit to Britain and the United States because of serious internal difficulties in the Janata government.

INDIAN PAPER CRITICIZES SUPERPOWER DISARMAMENT STAND

BK0614O4Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1050 GMT 6 Jun 78 BK

[Press review on AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA comment on disarmament]

[Text] The AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA alludes to the current special session of the UN General Assembly and says that it has been convened at the initiative of the nonalined nations to discuss the issue of disarmament and, if possible, to reach a broad agreement. Quite correctly, topmost priority has been given to the question of nuclear disarmament as this would be the most vital step toward total disarmament, an idea which the non-alined nations, including India, have been striving for.

The paper goes on to say: The proposals formulated by the nonalined countries may be quite comprehensive as has been claimed by the Indian external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee. But whether these would have any impact on the nuclear superpowers on whose decision depends the fate of the question, remains open to doubt. What would lend strength to this impression are the opening speeches of the delegates of the super-powers. Instead of putting forward any constructive proposals, they confined them-selves to apportioning blame to each other for the slow progress in nuclear disarmament.

The AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA adds: No progress in this direction can meet with success without an agreement between the two superpowers as a first essential step. But instead of setting an example by stopping the vertical proliferation, they are more eager to take steps in order to insure that nuclear technology is denied to developing countries even for peaceful purposes.

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN, PRC TEAMS REVIEW BORDER TRADE EXCHANGE

BK0614O8Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The latest position of Pak-China border trade was reviewed in Islamabad this morning at a preliminary meeting between Pakistani officials and the visiting Chinese border trade delegation.

The two sides exchanged views on the existing volume of trade and (?ways to increase it). The diversification of goods within the framework of the border trade agreement of 1967 also came under discussion during the meeting. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the expansion of border trade since 1967 to the mutual advantage of their two peoples. The two sides affirmed that trade between the northern part of Pakistan and the Sinkiang region of the PRC constituted one of the [words indistinct] cordial Sino-Pak relations.

The Chinese side at the talks was headed by leader of the border trade delegation, Mr (Wang Fu-chang), director of the Foreign Trade Bureau of Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region. The members of the trade delegation included the commercial counselor of the Chinese Embassy. The Pakistan side was led by the (?additional) secretary, commerce (?section), Mr (M.Z. Rahman) and included officials of the commerce and [words indistinct] and the Central Board of Revenue.

The members of the Chinese trade team will be leaving for Gilgit tomorrow morning to (?continue) negotiations with Pakistani authorities there and finalize the border trade exchange program for 1978-79.

SUPREME COURT ORDERS REVIEW OF BHUTTO JAIL CONDITIONS

BK061645Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The Supreme Court today directed the Punjab home secretary and inspector general of prisons to meet with defense and prosecution lawyers in Rawalpindi tomorrow to consider complaints about the prison facilities accorded to the appellant, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The court further directed that the registrar of the Supreme Court, who is also the senior district and sessions judge, should take part in the talks as the court's representative.

The chief justice, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, said that the court hopes a proper and calm atmosphere prevails while it is dealing with the legal and judicial aspects of the case. The court's attention must not be distracted by side issues. The court also directed the defense counsel, Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, to keep in mind the limits of the law within which all have to function.

The (?advocate of records), Mr M.A. Rahman, submitted that such a situation is being intentionally created for propaganda purposes. He said the prison authorities only want to insure that those visiting the appellant do not violate the law, and that they submit themselves for search as required by law. Mr M.A. Rahman presented copies of the jail superintendant's reply to Mr Yahya Bakhtiar's complaint yesterday. He also presented two letters written by Mr Yahya Bakhtiar to the Punjab home secretary in this regard.

The defense counsel, Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, then read the evidence of three witnesses in the murder case of Mr Mohammad Ahmed Khan. The witnesses were the senior superintendant of police, Lahore, Mr Mohammad Asghar Khan; the assistant inspector of police, Mr Wazar Hussain; and the deputy inspector general Lahore, Mr Abdul Wakil Khan. The court will resume hearing the case tomorrow morning.

SRI LANKA

FINANCE MINISTER BRIEFS PARLIAMENT ON FOREIGN AID

BK061507Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 6 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, June 6 (AFP)--Finance Minister Ronnie De Mel told Parliament today Sri Lanka will receive a record volume of foreign aid this year.

Mr. De Mel claimed that the aid given by foreign countries is a tribute to the sound economic and financial policies of the new Sri Lanka Government and the confidence they reposed in it.

He said that the total aid amounting to rupees 6,100 million (approximately $382 million) pledged at the Sri Lanka Aid Group meeting in Paris last month is higher than what was pledged last year by $134 million, or 54 percent.

In addition to this, Sri Lanka expected to receive from the aid group more than a further rupees 6,000 million for the multipurpose Mahaweli River Development Project, Mr De Mel said.

The finance minister said that the aid received this year is significant not only because the total amount is a record but for several other reasons.

Almost all the aid, he said, is on concessionary terms ranging from half to 3 percent interest and quite a proportion of it amounting to rupees 1,694 million has been given as nonrepayable outright grants.

Another significant feature, he said, is that for the first time several small countries like the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway have given considerable aid on most favourable terms.

He said, "Our aid programme is no longer dependent on the large countries and big powers alone. This diversification of aid is significant for maintenance of our policy of strict nonalignment and friendship with all countries."

Mr De Mel said Sri Lanka also expects to receive aid from the Soviet Union, China, East Germany and other socialist countries. Aid was also expected from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He said that as a considerable part for foreign aid this year is in the nature of either nonrepayable grants or loans on softest possible terms the future debt repayment burden would be considerably less.

While claiming that the country has obtained most of the foreign aid necessary for immediate needs, the finance minister said they had still to get down to the actual task of developing the economy to meet the aspirations of the people, particularly the youth.

BRIEFS

SRI LANKA ANTIMALARIA AGREEMENT--An agreement involving a sum of $20 million was signed between the governments of Sri Lanka, the United States, Britain and the Netherlands for a local anti-malaria campaign. A spokesman of the Health Ministry said that out of this total $12 million was granted by the United States and $4 million each by Britain and the Netherlands. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 May 78 BK]

BRITISH AID TO SRI LANKA--Britain and Sri Lanka on 2 June signed an agreement under which Britain will provide $5 million as grant aid to finance various development projects. The first two projects to be financed under the agreement will be the supply of equipment to the Colombo Port Commission and to the coconut processing industry. [Colombo Overseas Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Jun 78 BK]

PAKISTAN-TURKEY GRAIN AGREEMENT--Pakistan and Turkey have entered into an agreement to meet each other's requirements of wheat and rice. This has been stated by the adviser on commerce and political affairs, Maula Baksh Soomro, on his return to Karachi from Turkey. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jun 78 BK]

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